

OHIO DEMOCRATIC PARTY RURAL CAUCUS

Bylaws

ARTICLE I

Name

The official name of this organization shall be the Ohio Democratic Party Rural Caucus, abbreviated as ODP RC or RC.

ARTICLE II

Mission

Section 1. Relationship with the Ohio Democratic Party

The ODPRC is a grassroots organization whose members work in full partnership with the Ohio Democratic Party (ODP). The RC serves as ODP's official organizing arm regarding issues of importance to Ohio's rural communities.

Section 2. Mission

The mission of the Caucus shall be to promote Democratic values in rural communities, identify, discuss and address rural issues, accurately represent the needs of rural Democrats at all levels, provide support to rural Democratic parties and organizations, and to elect Democratic candidates in rural areas at all levels of government.

ARTICLE III

Membership

SECTION 1. Eligibility

Membership is available to persons and organizations who satisfy all three of the following prerequisites:

- A. Has an interest in identifying rural issues and promoting rural Democratic values of Ohio and who will subscribe to the purposes of the Rural Caucus
- B. Accept the platform, principles, and values of ODP RC and the Ohio and National Democratic Parties.
- C. Meet at least one of the following:
 1. Be registered to vote as a Democrat.
 2. Be an eligible Ohio voter.
 3. Believe in the principles of the Democratic Party.
 4. Be a member of an Ohio Democratic-allied organization.

SECTION 2. Dues and Fees

There shall be no membership fees or dues for the ODP RC.

SECTION 3. Rights of Members

- A. Each member may cast one vote in ODP RC elections and other voted matters.
- B. Members have the right and are encouraged to participate in ODP RC events to the best of their ability and availability.

ARTICLE IV
Meetings of Members

Section 1. Annual Meeting

Members shall meet annually at a specific date, time, and location designated by the Chair. This meeting may be held virtually. At the annual meeting, the members shall elect officers, receive reports on the activities of the association, and determine the direction of the caucus for the coming year.

SECTION 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the chair, the Steering Committee, or a petition signed by twenty RC members. Special meetings may be held virtually.

SECTION 3. Notice of Meetings

Notice of each meeting shall be given to each member via email not less than two weeks prior to the meeting.

SECTION 4. Quorum

The quorum for a meeting of the members shall consist of at least ten members.

SECTION 5. Voting

All issues to be voted on shall be decided by a simple majority of those present at the meeting in which the vote takes place.

ARTICLE V
Officers

SECTION 1. Officers

The elected officers of the ODP RC shall be the Chair, Vice Chair (the Vice Chair must be of a different gender self-identity as the Chair), Secretary, Delegate to the ODP Executive Committee, Immediate Past Chair and Regional Vice Chairs. If there is no Immediate Past Chair, then a Special Advisor shall be elected. All officers must be legal Ohio voters and no officer may be a member of a political party other than the Democratic Party.

SECTION 2. Duties

A. Chair

1. Preside at meetings of the ODP RC.
2. Exercise general managerial tasks for ODP RC.
3. Establish and terminate ad hoc and standing committees as needed.
4. Appoint chairs to committees.

B. Vice Chair

1. Assist the chair.
2. Fulfill the duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence.
3. Make logistical and digital arrangements for all meeting of the officers, steering committee, and membership.

C. Secretary.

1. Attend all meetings of the officers, steering committee, and membership
2. Send all meeting notices, including for committee meetings to which the Secretary

- does not attend.
- 3. Record meeting minutes and votes and maintain these in a digital book kept for that purpose.
- 4. Maintain the membership roster.
- 5. Distribute meeting minutes to appropriate persons.
- 6. Handle official ODP RC correspondence.
- 7. Certify resolutions and other documents of the ODP RC.
- D. Delegate to the ODP Executive Committee**
 - 1. The Chair of the Caucus shall be the individual who represents the Caucus on the ODP Executive Committee. If the Chair is already a member of the committee, the Caucus shall then elect a different individual to serve in that capacity
 - 2. Attend all meetings of the Ohio Democratic Party Executive Committee.
 - 3. Advance the concerns of RC to the ODP Executive Committee.
- E. Immediate Past Chair or Special Advisor**
 - 1. Provide advice and institutional knowledge to the RC as needed.

SECTION 3: Election, Term, Removal, and Vacancies.

Election. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the ODP RC members present at the annual membership meeting. The Secretary shall send a list of all candidates to the membership along with the notice of the annual meeting.

- A. **Term.** Officers shall take office at the close of each biannual ODP organizing meeting and serve for a term of two years.
- B. **Removal.** ODP RC officers may be removed for cause by a majority vote of the ODP RC Steering Committee. Cause shall include, but not be limited to:
 - 1. Failure, without excuse, to attend meetings.
 - 2. Failure to perform the duties of the position.
 - 3. Acting in such a way as to endanger the good name or hamper the work of the ODP RC and/or the ODP.
 - 4. Campaigning for a candidate who is a member of another political party.
 - 5. Voting in a primary with any ballot other than a democratic or issues- only ballot.
- C. **Vacancies.** A vacancy in any of the elected offices shall be filled by the ODP RC Chair.

**ARTICLE VI
REGIONAL VICE CHAIRS AND COUNTY PARTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Section 1. Geographical assignment.

The geographic assignment of rural counties into regions and the decision as to which Ohio counties are classified as rural for said geographical assignment shall be established by the Officers with the approval of the Executive Committee.

In making this geographical assignment, the Officers shall consider the population density of the various rural counties so that there would be more counties having low density in a region and less counties having high density in a region.

The [current map](#) of approved regions will be made accessible for members.

Section 2. Duties of Regional Vice Chairs.

The Regional Vice Chairs are encouraged to accomplish the following tasks:

- A. Serve as a liaison between the Rural Caucus and the County Parties assigned to a region.
- B. Make short verbal or written reports of local Party events or issues to the Rural Caucus.
- C. Suggest agenda items to the Officers for meetings of the Rural Caucus.
- D. Attend County Party meetings within assigned regions.
- E. Report on the activities of the Rural Caucus to each County Party within assigned regions.
- F. Invite Democrats within the assigned region to join and participate in Rural Caucus events and run for office.
- G. Assist each County Party within assigned region to grow and recruit candidates for office at all levels.
- H. Coordinate these tasks with the ODP Caucus Coordinating official.
- I. Recruit a representative from each County Democratic Party within assigned region to serve as a Rural Caucus County Party Representative to assist in the above-described tasks.

ARTICLE VII Steering Committee

SECTION 1. Purpose

The Steering Committee is a standing committee of the ODP RC. Its purpose is to assist the development and execution of various events and actions to achieve the goals and mission of the RC.

SECTION 2. Duties and Responsibilities

- A. Direct the affairs of the ODP RC.
- B. Exercise general supervision over standing and ad hoc committees to ensure they support the mission, interests, and welfare of the ODP RC.
- C. Conduct tactical and strategic planning for ODP RC.
- D. Develop guidelines for state, regional, and local RC events and activities to ensure they support the mission, interests, and welfare of ODP RC and employ best practices for success.
- E. Assist and guide regional RC leaders in actions and events.
- F. Participate in the selection of ODP RC Director, if any, hired by ODP.

SECTION 3. Members

- A. **Officers are Members.** All ODP RC officers are members of the Steering Committee.
- B. **Other Members.** The ODP RC officers may select additional members to serve on the Steering Committee.

SECTION 4. Term

Steering Committee members serve at the pleasure of the ODP RC officers. The Steering Committee dissolves at the end of the officers' term.

SECTION 5. Removal from Steering Committee.

- A. **Resignation.** Steering Committee members may resign at any time by sending a written letter or email to the Chair. Members who are unable to perform their duties for more than three (3) consecutive meetings or who miss three (3) consecutive meetings shall be deemed to have resigned.
- B. **Removal.** Steering Committee members may be removed for cause for the same reasons as

officers, delineated in Article V, Section 3.

SECTION 6. Meetings.

- A. **Scheduled.** The Steering Committee shall meet no fewer than three times per year.
- B. **Notice.** Except as otherwise provided, notice must be sent by written email or other printable digital means no less than seven days before a scheduled meeting.
- C. **Emergency.** Notwithstanding the notice provision above, an emergency meeting of the Steering Committee may be called by the written email or text message agreement of three of its members, so long as all members of the committee are sent a digital advisory of the emergency meeting.
- D. **Location of Meeting.** Meetings may be conducted remotely using digital means.

SECTION 5. Quorum and Voting

- A. A quorum of the Steering Committee shall consist of three members.
- B. Any matter voted upon requires a simple majority of committee members present to pass.

**ARTICLE VIII
Miscellaneous**

SECTION 1. Parliamentary Procedure

All meetings shall follow parliamentary procedure as contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* in situations not covered by ODP RC bylaws or by the Constitution & Bylaws and Rules of Procedures adopted by ODP.

SECTION 2. Consistency and Severability

These bylaws are intended to be consistent with the laws of the State of Ohio and the Constitution & Bylaws of the Ohio Democratic Party. Any section or clause of the ODP RC Bylaws that is in direct conflict with state law or the ODP Constitution & Bylaws shall be unenforceable, null, and void, while all remaining sections and clauses shall remain enforceable and in full effect.

SECTION 3. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended in writing by the majority vote of ODP RC members present at the annual meeting.

SECTION 4. Notice

All notice required by these bylaws must be written in either digital or hard copy form.

ADOPTION OF BYLAWS

We, the undersigned conveners of the Rural Caucus of the Ohio Democratic Party, hereby approve and adopt the foregoing as these bylaws on this 31st day of July, 2025.