

MADISON COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
PROPOSED BYLAWS

February 2025

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ARTICLE I

Organization

Section 1. Name

The name of the governing body of the Democratic Party in Madison County, State of Alabama is the Madison County Democratic Executive Committee, hereafter referred to as the County Committee.

Section 2. Powers

The County Committee is an official affiliate of the State Democratic Executive Committee of Alabama, hereafter referred to as the State Committee, has full authority in all matters over the County Committee. If any conflict exists, whereby the County Committee's Bylaws conflict with the bylaws of the State Committee, the State Committee's bylaws shall prevail.

The County Committee, except as otherwise provided by law, has by rule of the State Committee, jurisdiction of all Democratic Party matters within the County, and each district and other subdivisions thereof. It is empowered and authorized to prescribe and enforce penalties against the violation of Democratic Party fealty including removing or disbarring from Democratic Party office, Democratic Party nominations, Democratic Party privilege or Committee Membership, anyone within its jurisdiction who violates such fealty or its rules or other lawful mandate.

The State Committee shall review, on appeal, the decision of the County Committees in all cases concerning the nomination of County officers and all matters relating to Democratic Party rules and policies.

Section 3. Composition

The County Committee shall:

- a) Be composed of members, hereafter Members, duly elected and certified by these Bylaws. Members include both District Members and At-Large Members as defined in these Bylaws.
- b) Only elect legal residents who are registered to vote in the county, and who believe in the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party.
- c) Not deny Membership because of race, color, sex, religion, age, disability, or ethnic origin.
- d) Have an equal allocation of female and male Members in all cases where possible. The female allocation will be hereafter referred to as the female gender group. The male allocation will be hereafter referred to as the male gender group. Any persons self-identifying as non-binary gender can be allocated to either the male gender group or the female gender group of their choice. This choice will not in any way diminish their self-identification as non-binary

gender, infer any gender or limit their allocation choices at any time in the future.

e) Maintain a Harassment Prevention Policy to create and maintain an environment in which all persons are treated with respect and dignity and can participate in Democratic Party activities in a safe and professional atmosphere that promotes equal opportunity and prohibits discriminatory practices.

e) Reflect the diversity of our Democratic Party where possible. Any Democrat who self-identified as racial or ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+, disabled, senior (ages 60 and above), or youth (under 40 years old) will make up the Diversity Constituency.

f) Create and maintain Diversity Caucus membership as calculated by the State Party.

1) The purpose of the Diversity Caucuses is to ensure full participation of historically underrepresented constituencies and to give these constituencies appropriate representation on the County Committee.

2) There may be a Black Caucus, a Youth Caucus, a Hispanic Caucus, an LGBTQ+ Caucus, an Asian/Pacific Islander Caucus, a Native American Caucus, and a Disabled Persons Caucus. Any Member shall be a member of one or more of these caucuses if they self-identify as part of these constituencies. Collectively these Caucuses shall be referred to as the Diversity Caucuses unless otherwise specified. Each Diversity Constituency shall be empowered to form a Diversity Caucus and conduct outreach to grow the constituency and the Madison County Democratic Party. The County Committee may establish additional caucuses.

3) There shall be a Coordinating Vice Chair for Minority Affairs to represent all the Diversity Caucuses except; the Black Caucus, due to the unique challenges faced by this constituency, shall be represented by the Coordinating Vice Chair for Black Caucus Affairs; and the Youth Caucus, due to the unique challenge of growing this constituency shall be represented by the Coordinating Vice Chair for Youth Affairs.

g) Fill all County Committee vacancies. Upon notification of a vacancy, the secretary shall notify the committee forthwith. All vacancies on the County Committee will be filled by majority vote, at an official meeting of the County Committee, from applicants who have been nominated by Members. All applicants for Membership on the County Commission shall file with the Treasurer an Alabama Democratic Party Qualification Form and additional form(s) as required, pay all qualifying fees, express to the Committee their identification as a loyal Democrat and their intention to remain so, and currently reside in the district in which the vacancy exists.

h) Consist of the following Members:

1) Eight (8) Members, four (4) from a female gender group and four (4) from a male gender group, will represent each of the six (6) County Commission Districts. These District Members will be duly elected and certified by the rules and procedures set out in these Bylaws. The two (2) gender groups shall be listed separately. The female gender group candidates shall be listed on the ballot together and the male candidates shall be listed on the ballot together. The ballot shall state the maximum number of persons from

each gender group for which votes are to be cast. The four (4) candidates from the male gender group receiving the largest number of votes in the district shall be ranked and elected by plurality. The four (4) candidates from the female gender group receiving the largest number of votes in the district shall be ranked and elected by plurality. District Members shall be certified at the first meeting of the County Committee following the Alabama gubernatorial primary, hereafter the Organizational Meeting. The Organizational Meeting will be held between August 15th and August 31st whenever possible.

2) The County Committee shall also include at-large Members, hereafter At-Large Members. The number of At-Large Members shall be equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the number of District Members. The diversity of At-Large Members shall reflect the diversity of the Diversity Constituency where possible. Any Member can nominate individuals from the Diversity Constituency to serve as At-Large Members. At-Large Members shall be elected by the Members from these nominees. At-Large Members shall be nominated, elected, and certified at the Organizational Meeting.

3) The Committee Officers, as described in these Bylaws, shall be elected by the County Committee during the Organizational Meeting. The Chair and Vice Chair of the County Committee shall be of opposite gender groups. In the event of a vacancy in the Chair, the Vice Chair shall forthwith call a meeting for the election of a new Chair. In the event of any other Committee Officer vacancy, the same shall be filled by election at a regular meeting of the County Committee. If a District Member or At-Large Member is elected to be a Committee Officer, their District Member or At-Large Member position will become vacant.

4) All State Committee Members residing in Madison County are ex officio members of the County Committee without voting privileges. State Committee Members will be notified of all meetings and will have full floor privileges.

Section 4. Term of Office

a) **Members:** The term of all popularly elected members of the County Committee shall be four (4) years and shall continue until their successors are elected or unless they forfeit their Membership as described in these Bylaws. If the Member has no elected successor due to a change in the Bylaws, reapportionment, redistricting, changes in Alabama law, court action, or other similar reason, the Member's term shall end at the initiation of the Organizational Meeting.

1) District Members shall immediately forfeit their Membership if they lose their citizenship or change voting residency by permanently moving from the district from which they were elected.

2) Members may resign their Membership at any time and for any reason by providing notice to any officer of the County Committee. Members forfeit their Membership immediately upon such resignation. Members are encouraged to provide advanced notice of their intent to resign, including an effective date. Members may withdraw such notice of resignation at any reasonable time prior to the effective date.

3) A Member shall lose their Membership if the Member fails to perform their duties as described in these Bylaws without an adequate excuse, for a period of three (3) months or more. When it is brought to the attention of the Chair that a Member has failed to perform their duties, the Chair will investigate the matter. The burden of proof that the Member has been performing their duties or has a valid excuse for such failure shall be on the Member, and the Member shall provide their evidence or excuse to the County Committee before the end of the (3) month period or the member shall automatically forfeit his or her Membership.

4) A Member shall lose their Membership if the member is absent without excuse, as determined by the County Committee, from three (3) consecutive meetings. The burden of proof of adequate excuse from attendance at meetings shall be on the member, and the member shall provide their excuse to the County Committee before their absence from three (3) consecutive meetings or the member shall automatically forfeit his or her Membership. This provision shall not apply to ex officio members.

5) Forfeiture of Membership by any member shall constitute a vacancy on the County Committee.

b) **Committee Officers:** The term of office for all Committee Officers The term of Committee Officers shall begin at their election and continue until their successors are elected, but Committee Officers shall serve at the pleasure of the County Committee.

c) **Standing Committee chairs:** The term of office for all Standing Committee chairs shall continue from the time of their appointment until their successors are appointed, but Standing Committee chairs shall serve at the pleasure of the County Committee.

Section 5. Duties

a) **County Committee:** The County Committee shall have the responsibility of discharging Democratic Party affairs within the County. The County Committee shall establish, maintain, and staff a Democratic Party headquarters at least 90 days before each general election.

b) **Members:** Each member of the County Committee shall regularly promote the Democratic Party in Madison County by recruiting fellow Democrats to work on behalf of the Democratic Party, participating in Democratic Party activities, and hosting events in their district. All Members are expected to attend all County Committee regular and special meetings, committee-sponsored meetings, and events.

b) **Committee Officers:**

1) The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Coordinating Vice Chairs as described in these Bylaws shall serve as officers of the County Committee, hereafter Committee Officers, and shall have all the authority and duties implied by such title and expressed or implied by these Bylaws.

2) **Chair** - The Chair shall be the principal and presiding officer of the County Committee.

3) **Vice Chair** - The Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Coordinating Vice Chairs shall assist the Chair and shall have the duties and authority implied by their respective titles and specified by these Bylaws and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to them by the Chair or by the County Committee, or which may be required by law. The Vice Chair shall preside over the meetings of the County Committee in the absence of the Chair. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chair and before the election of a successor, the Vice Chair shall assume all the duties and have all the authority of the Chair.

4) **Secretary** - The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the County Committee meetings, and any conventions which may be held, see that all notices are duly given and be the custodian of the records for the County Committee including Membership records.

5) **Treasurer** - The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds and securities of the County Committee from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such funds in the name of the County Committee in bank or other depositories as shall be selected by the County Committee; keep and maintain, open to inspection by any member of the County Committee at all reasonable times, adequate or correct accounts of the funds and transactions of the County Committee, which shall include all matters required by law; disburse the funds of the County Committee as may be ordered by the Chair or the County Committee; render to the Chair and Secretary, or to the County Committee, whenever it may require or request it, an account of all their transactions as Treasurer, and a financial statement in form satisfactory to it, showing the condition of the County Committee funds and securities; and if required by the County Committee, give a bond, to be paid for by the County Committee, for the faithful discharge of their duties, in such sum and with such corporate surety or sureties as the County Committee shall determine.

6) **Coordinating Vice Chair for Minority Affairs** - The Coordinating Vice Chair for Minority Affairs shall preside over all Diversity Caucus meetings, formulate and implement plans to grow the Diversity Constituency and Madison County Democratic Party, and to advocate for the interests and issues of Diversity Constituency with the County Committee and in the community.

7) **Coordinating Vice Chair for Black Caucus Affairs** - The Coordinating Vice Chair for Black Caucus Affairs shall preside over Black Caucus meetings, formulate and implement plans to grow this constituency and Madison County Democratic Party, and to advocate for the interests and issues of Black Constituency with the County Committee and in the community.

8) **Coordinating Vice Chair for Youth Affairs** The Coordinating Vice Chair for Youth Affairs shall preside over all Youth Caucus meetings, formulate and implement plans to grow this constituency and Madison County Democratic Party, and to advocate for the interests and issues of Youth Constituency with the County Committee and in the community.

ARTICLE II

Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees

- a) **Composition:** Unless otherwise provided by these Bylaws, chairs of Standing Committees shall be appointed by the chair from among the Members. Other Democrats may serve on these committees. These committees shall assist the chair, other committees and the County Committee in all matters delegated to them for the timely and efficient administration of the work and business of the County Committee.
- b) **Policies and Procedures Committee:** The Policies and Procedures Committee shall consist of a chair and up to four Members. The chair of the Policies and Procedures Committee shall be the Vice Chair of the County Committee, and the Secretary shall serve as one of the members of the Policies and Procedures Committee. The committee's duties shall include formulating policies and procedures by which to conduct the business of the County Committee and bring suggested policies before the County Committee for a vote and adoption. .
- c) **Affirmative Action Committee:** The Affirmative Action Committee shall have two co-chairs who shall not be from the same Diversity Constituency and at least one member from each of the diversity caucuses if possible. The Coordinating Vice Chair for Minority Affairs shall be one of the co-chairs. The second co-chair will be elected by Members of the Diversity Constituencies. The Affirmative Action Committee shall create an Affirmative Action Plan designed to encourage the fullest participation of all diversity groups in Democratic Party affairs and increase the participation of those groups and mitigate factors which reduce participation by such persons. The Affirmative Action Committee shall submit this plan to the Chair for approval and implementation by the County Committee.
- d) **Communications Committee:** The Communications Committee shall consist of a chair and at least one member from each of the diversity caucuses if possible. The committee shall be responsible for publicizing meetings of the County Committee, maintaining and updating the County Committee's website and social media sites so that they provide timely and accurate information and publicizing County Committee meetings and events, other Democratic and related groups meetings and events, Democratic nominees running for elected office, and provide information about current and historical Democratic policy issues, how those policies have benefited Madison County, contrast the policy agendas of the Democratic and other parties, and provide accurate information and analysis of the Democratic policy agenda and its contributions to Madison County.
- e) **Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee shall consist of a chair and up to four Members. The Nominating Committee's duties shall include nominating a slate of at least two persons for each Office to be elected by the County Committee and to report same to the Members no later than the July meeting of the County Committee immediately preceding the quadrennial Organization meeting or at the time of any vacancy.

- f) **Audit Committee:** The Audit Committee shall consist of a chair and at least two Members to audit the Financial Records by March of each year.
- g) **Legislative Committee:** The Legislative Committee shall consist of a chair and at least four Members. All Democratic elected officials (state, local, and national) residing in Madison County shall serve as members of the committee. The Legislative Committee's duties shall include researching and reporting on legislation and pending actions by the state and county government.
- h) **Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee shall consist of a chair and up to four Members. The Treasurer shall serve as chair of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee's shall be responsible for assisting the treasurer in all matters related to finance.
- i) **Data and Technical Committee:** The Data and Technical Committee shall contain a chair and up to four Members to address data, technical and other related matters.
- j) **Events and Fundraising Committee:** The Fundraising Committee shall consist of a chair and at least four Members. The Fundraising Committee's duties shall include initiating, planning, coordinating and conducting all fundraising activities including community events and digital fundraising.
- k) **Volunteers Committee:** The Volunteers Committee shall consist of a chair and at least four Members. The Volunteers Committee's duties shall include coordinating all matters related and recruiting and maintaining an active volunteer base.

Section 2. Special Committees

- a) **Ethics Committee:** An Ethics Committee shall be elected from the Members as necessary by the County Committee. The chair of this committee shall be elected by the members of this committee. The term of the Ethics Committee chair and members shall be determined by the County Committee.
- b) **Additional Committees:** The Chair is authorized and empowered to create and appoint special committees or commissions or subcommittees to perform such functions and to have such powers as shall be designated by the chair; provided, however, that the same shall not exercise any right or power vested by these Bylaws in any standing committee nor shall they supplant or supersede any of the standing committees created by these Bylaws. The term of these committee chairs and members shall be determined by the Chair.

ARTICLE III

Procedure

Section 1. Meetings

a) **Regular Meetings:** The County Committee must meet a minimum of quarterly during non-election years, and monthly during election years.

b) **Special Meetings:**

1) The Secretary will provide Notice (as described below) no later than seven (7) days before Special Meetings.

2) Special Meetings may be called by the Chair, by any Committee Officer, or any five Members by written notice sent to all Members and delivered to the Secretary no later than ten (10) days before the called meeting. The Notice (as described below) shall contain an agenda specifically identifying the matters to be discussed at the meeting. Any actions taken on matters not specifically identified on the agenda shall be void and of no effect.

c) **Notice:** Notice of any regular or special meeting, or such other notice required to be sent to the Members, shall be sent to the Members by the Secretary using any method or combination of methods calculated to give actual notice of the meeting to the Members. If written notice is required, such notice may be sent to the member's last known email address or other point of contact, postage or other sending or delivery costs, if any, prepaid. Methods of written notice can also include but shall not be limited to email, text message, or any combination of methods.

d) **Parliamentarian:** The Chair may appoint a Parliamentarian who shall attend all regular and special meetings of the County Committee and who will be knowledgeable, through training and/or experience, of parliamentary procedure as set out in the most recent version of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

e) **Meeting Cancellation/Re-Scheduling:** The Chair is authorized to re-schedule any regularly scheduled meeting for extenuating circumstances. Canceling any meeting shall require a vote of the County Committee.

Section 2. Quorum: Twenty-five (25) percent of the Members present at any regular or special meetings of the County Committee shall constitute a quorum. This Section shall not apply to State Committee members.

Section 3. Order of Business: The order of business shall be as follows: (a) Assembly and roll call, (b) Minutes unless dispensed with, (c) The filling of vacancies in the Membership, (d) New business in the call or otherwise, (e) Unfinished business and (f) Adjournment. The

order of business may be changed at any time by the Chair in the absence of objection.

Section 4. Rules of Procedure: Unless otherwise provided for in these Bylaws, the most recent version of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern in all meetings of the County Committee.

Section 5. Minutes: Minutes shall be kept of all meetings by the Secretary and shall be presented at the next meeting for approval.

Section 6. Votes: On all questions at meetings of the County Committee, a majority vote shall prevail. If a tie occurs, the proposition is lost, except on motions to suspend the rules. Proxy voting is not allowed.

ARTICLE IV

Finances

Section 1. Authority

The County Committee shall have the authority to raise, receive, accept, solicit, maintain, and expend such funds as may be provided from any source not prohibited by law. Assessments payable by candidates shall be required in such amount as is provided by resolution of the County Committee provided that same does not exceed the limitation provided by law except for assessments fixed by the State Committee. The assessments are payable to County Committee for all county offices, beat of precinct offices including constables and justices of the peace, and Membership on the County Committee.

Section 2. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the County Committee shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of each calendar year.

Section 3. Expenses

Expenses of the County Committee, whether for postage, supplies, stationery, rent, telephone, telegraph, freight, office furnishings, parcel post, transportation, staff expenses, office help, advertising, entertainment, campaign expenses, the Chair's expenses, meeting expenses or activity expenses as authorized by the Chair, shall be paid or reimbursed from the Committee's general funds.

Section 4. Accounts

Funds of the County Committee shall be kept on deposit in the County Committee's name or the name of a subcommittee of the campaign or special fund. The Chair may place funds to the bank credit of a subcommittee or a special fund from time to time as convenient. Funds may be disbursed by bank draft or check drawn by the Treasurer and countersigned by the Chair or when more convenient drawn by either. Obligations of the County Committee or any of its subcommittees may be paid out of committee funds without waiting for the meeting of the County Committee.

ARTICLE V

Selection of Nominees

Section 1. Regular Elections

- a) Under Alabama law, a Democratic Primary is called and ordered to be held throughout the State on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June of each even-numbered year, and if necessary, as provided by law, on the third Tuesday next thereafter following said primary, or on such other dates as may hereafter be provided by Alabama law. Such primary elections shall be the Primary Election of the Democratic Party in the State of Alabama and shall be held and conducted in all respects in accordance with the primary elections of the laws of Alabama.
- b) Nominees of the Democratic Party for all public offices in the county shall be selected in the Democratic Party Primary except the County Committee may, by resolution, provide for the nomination of one or more county officers by some means, as provided by Alabama law, other than in a primary. The State Committee must approve any such resolution by the County Committee before it may be filed with the Probate Judge.
- c) No person shall not be permitted to qualify as a candidate for District Membership unless they have citizenship and residency as a voter in the district for which they have chosen to serve.
- d) If a legally qualified candidate for nomination to any public office or for election to any public office or for election to any Democratic Party is unopposed when the last date for qualification of candidates has passed, their name shall not be printed on the ballots to be used in said Primary Elections, and they shall be declared as duly nominated or elected, to the office for which they are qualified.
- e) No person shall be permitted to qualify as a candidate for public or Democratic Party office as a Democrat in any elections if they did not support the nominees of the Democratic Party in all Special or General Elections during the past four years, or who can be shown to have campaigned for endorsed or contributed financially to any candidate opposing a Democratic nominee. Provided, however, any person holding a party office in another party, or holding a public elected office as the nominee of another party, or who has supported the candidacy of someone other than a Democrat through financial contributions, campaigning, or other public support during the past four years, and who desires to switch parties and seek office under the Democratic Party, may do so by renouncing his or her previous party allegiance, and the reasons therefore, to that party and pledging loyalty and allegiance to the Democratic Party for admission. The Chair shall refer the matter to the County Committee and allow said person to show cause, if any, why his or her acceptance into the Democratic Party as a candidate would be beneficial to the Democratic Party if he or she is allowed to seek public office under the Democratic Party's emblem. If, after such a hearing, the County Committee is convinced by a preponderance of the evidence, that such a person would be an asset to the Democratic Party, the County Committee may, by a vote of two-thirds of those present and voting, allow that person to seek office as a Democrat.

f) Candidates for nomination for all county offices shall before 5:00 p.m., sixty (60) days next preceding the date of the primary election, in addition to paying the prescribed assessments file with the Chair of the County Committee, a verified declaration of candidacy form obtained from the State Committee.

g) After a candidate pays his/her qualifying fee if such a candidate, in writing, withdraws from the race on or before the qualification deadline, the chair of the County Committee is authorized to refund such qualifying fee or entrance fees to such candidate.

h) Should the County Committee desire not to enter a primary election provided for under Alabama law, proper notice thereof shall be given by filing with the Probate Judge, at least sixty (60) days before the date of the primary election, a statement of the action of the County Committee, certified by the Chair and the Secretary, with a copy of the adopted resolution, declining to accept and come under the Primary Election Law.

Section 2. Special Elections, Vacancies, etc.

a) Whenever a special election is called to fill any public office, the County Committee may at its discretion, nominate a candidate of the Democratic Party therefore or provide for a nomination by primary election or convention or other method in vogue in the Democratic Party at the time. When there is ample time and it is legally possible to do so, a primary should be used. Notwithstanding any provision of these Bylaws to the contrary, whenever because of reapportionment or redistricting by an act of the county commission, or by court action; (1) a Democratic Party nomination has not been made for any office to be filled in any general election or (2) there is a conflict in nomination as a result of more than one nomination having been made prior to the reduction in similar offices or (3) there is a change in the area(s) from which any nominee(s) is/are to be selected, then in any such event the nominations and the nominee(s) in question which shall be made, fixed and determined by the County Committee or by such method as the County Committee shall determine.

b) When a nomination has been made and becomes vacant before the election, the vacancy may be filled by use of any of the above-stated plans for special elections that may be applicable or adaptable to use, in the judgment of the Chair, who shall advise or direct action as occasions may suggest or require.

Section 3. Write-In Candidates

Only those candidates who have qualified as required by law and who have also complied with the rules and regulations fixed by the County Committee shall be voted for in any primary election. It shall not be permissible to write or stamp any name not officially printed on the primary ballot in any primary election. The Chair of the County Committee is authorized and empowered to reject declarations of candidates with or without a trial before the County Committee notwithstanding the affidavit if they believe the affidavit to be untrue or the candidate to be otherwise unqualified to run in the primary with a right appeal by the candidate to the County Committee for review.

Section 4. Certification of Candidates

The Chair, in accordance with Alabama law, shall certify the names of candidates for the nomination to county offices to the Probate Judge, and provide a copy of the same to the Chair of the State Committee.

Section 5. Certification of Results

The Chair, in accordance with Alabama law, shall certify the precinct-by-precinct results of any primary election to the Probate Judge, and provide a copy of the same to the Chair of the State Committee.

Section 6. Qualification Fees

a) Within the limits provided by law, the authority of the County Committee to fix entrance and qualifying fees or assessments of candidates for Democratic nomination for county offices or election to the County Committee is hereby vested in the County Committee.

b) In accordance with Alabama law the entrance or qualifying fees or assessments against all candidates for nomination or election in a primary election shall be as follows:

1) Against all candidates for any remunerative office - 2% of the salary of such office for the first year of the new term from every lawful source, including all supplements, but not including expense allowances.

2) Against all candidates for any no remunerative public office, as determined a vote of the County Committee.

3) Against each candidate for County Committee - \$25.00.

c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the entrance or qualifying fees or assessments shall be waived with respect to any candidate who is unable to pay the prescribed amount under the following procedure:

1) Any such person who desires to qualify shall file with the Chair a written declaration that he or she is unable to pay the prescribed fee or assessment and an application that he or she be allowed to qualify by filing of the herein prescribed petition. Such declaration and application in any understandable form shall be sufficient;

2) The Chair shall examine the declaration, the application and the prospective candidate; if the Chair is reasonably satisfied as to the truth of such declaration, shall approve the declaration.

3) After the approval of such declaration the prospective candidate shall be eligible to file a petition supporting his or her candidacy and signed by one-fourth of one percent (0.25%) of the voters registered in the state, district, county, circuit, or other political subdivision from which the office sought is to be elected. Such signatures shall be legible and accompanied

by each signatory's residence address. Upon the filing and approval of such petition, the payment of the entrance of the qualifying fee or assessment shall be waived.

ARTICLE VI

Contests

Section 1. Alabama Law Applicable

Contests of primary election results and certifications are the subject matter of Alabama law. The provisions of this Article are intended to supplement and complement Alabama law. No conflict between this Article and Alabama law is intended, but should a conflict exist either now or by virtue of any amendment of or addition to Alabama law, Alabama law shall prevail.

Section 2. State Committee Rules Applicable

The County Committee may adopt rules governing the conduct of contests triable by them, provided that all such rules shall conform to the requirements of Alabama law governing such cases. In the absence of any rules adopted by the County Committee, the rules governing the conduct of contests triable by the State Committee shall be applicable, so far as they are adaptable, to contests triable by the County Committee.

Section 3. Rules of Procedure

- a) The Chair, acting under their direction for such purpose, shall endorse on the statement of contest the date it is filed with them. Filing of a statement of contest shall be deemed complete when personally delivered to the Chair or left with a responsible adult person at the office or headquarters of the County Committee. The elector filing the contest for service or delivery of at least one copy each, on the contestee and every other party affected by or having any interest in the contest whose names and mailing addresses shall be set out in the statement of contest. The elector filing the contest shall set out in the statement of contest their place of residence, their address for the receipt of mail, and the county, precinct, beat or box where they are registered to vote and did vote in the contested primary election.
- b) Promptly after the receipt of the statement of contest, the Chair, or a person or subcommittee acting under the Chair's direction, shall mail a copy thereof by ordinary mail, postage prepaid, to the contestee and to each party affected by or having an interest in the contest. In the absence of convincing evidence to the contrary, it shall be presumed that the contestee and each such other person so addressed received the copy of the statement of contest mailed to them on the third day after it was mailed.
- c) In the absence of written notification to the Chair to the contrary, the address appearing on the written declaration of qualification filed by each candidate shall be his address for all purposes of mailing and communication relating to any contest in which such candidate is involved.
- d) The Chair shall appoint a subcommittee or subcommittees from the Membership of the County Committee, to hear, consider, and decide any contest or contest appeal of any election or nomination of any candidate in any primary election. Each such subcommittee so appointed

shall have the authority to do or perform anything which the County Committee could perform; and the chairperson of each such subcommittee shall have and is authorized to perform any act and exercise any power or authority which the Chair has or could exercise.

e) The Chair is empowered to make any order other than a final order of decision in any contest where limitations of time make it impracticable for contest subcommittee appointed or to be appointed to do so; provided, however, that any such order made by the Chair shall not foreclose the reconsideration of the subject matter of the order by the contest committee.

f) The elector filing a statement of contest shall post with the Chair, within such time that the Chair shall designate, such reasonable security for the costs for the contest as the Chair may require. The Chair shall have no duty to perform any act in connection with such contest, other than mailing of a copy of the statement of contest to the contestee and other interested parties, until such security for costs has been received by them. Additional security for costs may be required by the Chair in the course of the contest with the approval of the majority of the subcommittee appointed to hear the contest, if it shall appear that the costs originally posted with the Chair is inadequate. When determining the amount of security for costs, it shall be proper to consider and include expenses reasonably expected to accrue for the travel and subsistence expense of subcommittee members, reasonable fees or legal counsel to serve and advise the subcommittee hearings and considering the contest, and any and all other items of cost which, from the nature of the contest appearing in the statement of contest in responses thereto, appear likely to occur and reasonable in scope and amount. The failure of the contesting elector to post all required security for costs within such time as the Chair designates shall be sufficient grounds for the dismissal of the contest by the subcommittee or by the Chair if no subcommittee has then been appointed.

g) A copy of the contest subcommittee's final decision on the contest shall be mailed by the Chairperson of the contest subcommittee, or by a person acting at their direction, to each party to the contest or his attorney, to the Probate Judge, to the Chair, and to the Circuit Clerk of the Judicial Circuit in which the statement required by Alabama law, was or should have been filed.

h) The decision of any contest by a majority of the members of the contest subcommittee shall be final, and no appeal shall lie to the County Committee unless the decision was not supported by substantial evidence or was void as a matter of law.

Section 4. Implementation of Rules

These rules shall be interpreted and applied when in doubt, to permit substance to prevail over form; to avoid technicalities of pleading and procedure; and to expedite the decision of contests in as economical a manner as may be consistent with full consideration of the matter contested.

ARTICLE VII

Disqualification and Withdrawal of Nomination

Should any verified declaration of candidacy as required by these Bylaws, appear to have been made in error or other than in good faith, or if the conduct of any candidate, either before or after the Primary, shall be incompatible with such declaration, the Chair shall order the candidate to show cause before the subcommittee provided for by these Bylaws, why the candidate should not be disqualified or his nomination or election withdrawn as the case may be; and if after a hearing and following reasonable notice to interested parties, the subcommittee is reasonably satisfied that the declaration was in error or was not made in good faith or that the conduct of the candidate has been incompatible with the declaration, then the subcommittee shall disqualify the candidate or withdraw their nomination or election as the case may be.

Should a nominee be found, after their nomination and before the general election, to be disqualified to hold the office for which they have been nominated, the County Committee shall declare the nomination void and withdrawn and shall proceed to fill the vacancy as provided for in these Bylaws. The nominee against whom such action is proposed shall be afforded notice and of the grounds in support thereof in such manner and form as the Chair shall direct, and they shall be afforded an opportunity to show cause before the County Committee as a whole or before a subcommittee, why their nomination should not be withdrawn.

ARTICLE VIII

Status, Effect, and Amendment of Bylaws

Section 1. Status and Effect

The foregoing Bylaws are ordained and established by the County Committee as its permanent and continuing By-Laws, wholly superseding and amending all previously adopted Bylaws, Resolutions, and Regulations of whatever type and kind. The foregoing Bylaws shall continue in force until rescinded or changed.

Section 2. Amendments

Any member of the County Committee may propose in writing to amend or repeal any of these Bylaws. Such a proposal must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for proposing such amendment or repeal. The proposal and reasons shall be made at a regular meeting of the County Committee and voted on at a subsequent meeting.

Section 3. Other Rules

The County Committee may make any rules or regulations not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

Section 4. Severability

The provisions of these Bylaws and amendment to these Bylaws are severable. If any part, subpart, sentence, or word hereof be declared or held unconstitutional or invalid by any court or other agency having authority to make such declaration or holding, the same shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

Section 5. Effective Date

These Bylaws shall be effective upon their adoption by the County Committee on the ____ day of _____, 2025.

REVISION NOTES:

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