

## **Birmingham-Bloomfield Democratic Club Bylaws**

Approved as of March 18, 2019

*Revised/Approved as of January 19, 2021*

### **ARTICLE I: NAME AND MEMBERSHIP**

This organization is known as the **Birmingham-Bloomfield Democratic Club** (BB Dems), a non-profit organization, and is the official body of the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) in:

- The City of Birmingham, Michigan;
- The City of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan;
- The Township of Bloomfield, Michigan;
- The Village of Bingham Farms, Michigan;
- The Village of Beverly Hills, Michigan; and
- The Village of Franklin, Michigan.

Upon its dissolution, all assets and real and personal property of BB Dems and its committees shall revert to the benefit of the Michigan Democratic Party or to a charitable organization.

All persons interested in advancing the principles and ideals of the Michigan Democratic Party and the BB Dems are eligible for membership and, and if they live in one of the six communities listed above become voting members in good standing upon paying the annual dues of this organization. In order to receive or renew a charter from the Oakland County Democratic Party (OCDP), BB Dems must have at least ten (10) fully paid or enrolled Michigan Democratic Party members in the previous calendar year.

Applications for membership are accepted before or at any regular BB Dems meeting. Each member renews her or his membership annually. The costs of membership are set at the first regularly scheduled meeting of each calendar year. Waiving of membership dues to be a voting member in good standing will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the BB Dems treasurer.

### **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

The purpose of BB Dems is to promote the philosophy of the Democratic Party and to help elect Democrats who support this philosophy. This purpose is facilitated through BB Dems committees, our precinct delegates, and like-minded individuals who seek to advance the principles of our Party at the local level.

### **ARTICLE III: FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**

**Section 1.** All public meetings of the BB Dems are open to attendance by all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance, or disability.

**Section 2.** No oaths of loyalty to, or tests for membership in BB Dems will be required or used which has the effect of requiring the prospective or current member to give in to, condone, or otherwise support discrimination on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance, or disability.

**Section 3.** The time and place for all public meetings of BB Dems on all levels will be publicized to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings are held in places accessible to BB Dems members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.

**Section 4.** BB Dems will support the broadest participation possible without discrimination on grounds of race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance, or disability.

**Section 5.** BB Dems will publicize fully and in such a way to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selecting, and the descriptions of qualifications for, BB Dems officers and representatives.

Publication of those procedures and descriptions will be done in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of BB Dems will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedure in time to participate in each selection procedure of BB Dems, and full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

**Section 6.** Proportional voting will be used in BB Dems elections.

- A. Votes will not be taken by secret ballot at any meeting of BB Dems at any level.
- B. The unit rule, by which the body's entire vote must be cast for the candidate preferred by a majority of the voting body, is prohibited in BB Dems votes and elections.
- C. No rule may be adopted by BB Dems that would require a person to cast a vote or be recorded as voting contrary to that person's judgment.

**Section 7.** All rules and Bylaws of BB Dems at all levels will be consistent with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and will be available on request in writing to any member of BB Dems.

**Section 8.** The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order will be used on all questions of procedure not resolved by the Rules of the MDP or these Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1.** The Officers are a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson of a different self-identified gender of the Chairperson, a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and two (2) Trustees. Officers have one (1) year terms and are elected within the first three (3) months of the calendar year.

The election of Officers will be by a majority of the votes cast at the meeting where Officers are to be elected. All BB Dems members in good standing are eligible to vote. Vacancies among the Officers will be filled by special election within thirty (30) days.

**Section 2.** The Executive Committee consists of the Officers. Vacancies among the elected members of the Executive Committee will be addressed as appropriate by the Executive Committee.

**Section 3.** The Chairperson will preside at all meetings and have such other duties as are usual to the office of Chairperson, or that may be required by this organization.

**Section 4.** The Vice-Chairperson will be a member of a different self-identified gender from the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson assists the Chairperson in the discharge of their duties, and will temporarily assume the responsibilities of the Chair in their absence.

**Section 5.** The Recording Secretary will keep and preserve the books, documents, correspondence, records, effects, and other BB Dems property, and when a new secretary is elected the past secretary will deliver to the newly elected secretary all items maintained and preserved during her/his tenure.

**Section 6.** The Corresponding Secretary will see that proper notification is given of all meetings, as well as of other events relevant to the BB Dems via electronic mail, the BB Dems website, and social media.

**Section 7.** The Treasurer will be responsible for the financial receipts and disbursements of this organization. The funds of this organization will be deposited in banks and drawn upon only by approval of any two of the following officers: Chairperson, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. The Treasurer ensures financial reports are made to the Executive Committee and BB Dems. When a new Treasurer is elected, the past Treasurer will deliver to the new Treasurer the funds and all the books and records maintained during their tenure in office.

**Section 8.** The Trustees will ensure that the other Officers comply with these Bylaws and generally that the BB Dems' operations are ongoing as normal.

**Section 9.** Annual BB Dems Officer elections will be held during the November general meeting of each calendar year, with newly-elected Officers to take office starting on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

## **ARTICLE V: MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** Full membership meetings are held at least eight (8) times per calendar year where the Officers report on BB Dems activities. At least five (5) days' notice will be given of the date, place, and time of the meeting. Notice may be given by mail, telephone, or email.

**Section 2.** The regular meetings of the BB Dems Executive Committee will be on the date and at the location and time specified in the meeting notice. At least five (5) days' notice will be given of the date, time, and place of the meeting. Notice may be given by mail, telephone, or email. A quorum consists of a majority of the Executive Committee.

**Section 3.** Special meetings of the Executive Committee or full membership may be called by a majority of the Executive Committee or full membership, respectively. At least five (5) days' notice will be given of the date, place, time, and purpose of the special meeting. Notice may be given by mail, telephone, or e-mail.

**Section 4.** A minimum of ten (10) voting members in good standing must be present at a meeting in order for any BB Dems vote to be held.

## **ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.** The Chairperson, subject to the approval of the majority of the Executive Committee, appoints the committees and committee chairpersons necessary for the work of the organization.

**Section 2.** Standing Committees are the following:

1. Issues and Action Committee
2. Social and Fundraising Committee
3. Membership and Outreach Committee

These committees may include appropriate subcommittees as necessary for the proper operation and discharge of duties. The Chairperson of BB Dems is an ex-officio member of all standing committees.

## **ARTICLE VII: ORDER OF BUSINESS**

At meetings, the business of the organization proceeds in the following order:

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Reports of Officers
3. Reports of Committees
4. Old business
5. New business (including guest speakers)
6. Good and welfare
7. Adjournment

#### ARTICLE VIII: ENDORSEMENTS

1. As a general rule BB Dems will not endorse in contested Democratic primary races. Any exception will be only for good reason, under special circumstances and would take a vote of both the committee and the membership.
2. Notice of the endorsement process and these rules will be posted in a timely manner on the BB Dems website and publicly announced at regular meetings and included as discussion items in the month's published agendas.
3. Candidates will be given an in-person screening in races where ENDORSEMENTS are considered, if they request. A candidate must request the endorsement in writing to eventually receive one. An exception, made only by a separate motion and vote, of the committee and membership, can be a blanket endorsement of incumbents who do not have a primary challenge.
4. The endorsement committee will include BB Dems Executive Committee officers.
5. All endorsements and recommendations will be ratified by the general membership.

#### ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

**Section 1.** Any member in good standing may submit proposed amendments to these Bylaws. Proposals for changes or amendments to these Bylaws must be submitted to the Chair at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the next BB Dems meeting.

**Section 2.** These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members in good standing of BB Dems present at a meeting, provided that appropriate notice setting forth the proposed amendment has been given to all BB Dems members at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

**Section 3.** These Bylaws will be in full force and effect upon their adoption and supersede all Bylaws, rules, motions and policies of a contrary nature with the exception the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.