**CONSTITUTION OF THE**

**LA CROSSE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

**SECTION 1** - The name of the organization shall be the "La Crosse County Democratic Party" (hereinafter “LCDP”).

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

**SECTION 1** - It shall be the purpose of this organization to:

1. develop the fullest possible membership in La Crosse County,
2. hold regularly scheduled meetings,
3. recruit and train Democratic candidates for all elected offices in La Crosse County,
4. form, maintain and/or support effective campaign organization,
5. make recommendations to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW) platform,
6. promote the interests of the Democratic Party in the county, and
7. engage with issues campaigns in our community that promote awareness and support for DPW platform values.

**ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1** - A person shall be eligible for voting membership who:

a) is at least 14 years of age,

b) resides in La Crosse County,

c) is not a member of any other county Democratic Party,

d) subscribes to the principles of the Democratic Party, and

e) has paid current membership dues.

**SECTION 2** - Individuals who reside in counties contiguous with La Crosse County and who are not members in any other county shall be eligible for membership in the LCDP provided they meet all other membership requirements and the provisions in this regard contained in the by-laws of the DPW which shall govern that issue.

**SECTION 3** - Persons attending school in La Crosse County are to be considered residents for purposes of membership.

**SECTION 4** - A member of the LCDP is automatically a member of the DPW and the 3rd Congressional District Democratic Party.

**SECTION 5** - The annual dues shall be as determined by the DPW.

**ARTICLE IV - COUNTY ORGANIZATION**

**SECTION 1** - The officers of the LCDP shall consist of a Chair or Co-Chairs, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

**SECTION 2** - The governing body of the LCDP shall be an Executive Board, which shall be composed of the officers of the organization and additional members as follows:

a) Five members (referenced as “at-large”) who shall be elected by the body of the organization at the November meeting,

b) A representative of the College Dems who is currently attending an institution located in La Crosse County, and

c) The immediate past Chair who shall serve one term following his/her term as Chair.

**SECTION 3** - The permanent committees of the LCDP shall include the membership committee, the candidate recruitment committee, and the fundraising committee. The Chair and/or Executive Board shall have the power to create ad-hoc committees for specific purposes as deemed necessary.

**SECTION 4** - The Executive Board shall meet not less than once each month and shall be responsible for the conduct of all LCDP business between meetings of the organization. Members of the Executive Board are expected to attend monthly Executive Board meetings. When not possible, remote attendance (including but not limited to Skype, Facetime, speakerphone) is strongly encouraged. Remote attendance is allowed for participation and voting purposes. Any member of the Executive Board who has three consecutive or a total of four unexcused absences during a term from Executive Board meetings shall immediately forfeit the office and such vacancy shall be filled under the appropriate section of the LCDP By-laws.

**SECTION 5 –** An elected Executive Board member may be removed for cause, which includes but is not limited to, neglect of duties or misuse of County Party property, funds, or resources. Before any removal vote by the LCDP membership, the Executive Board shall afford the board member, if present, an opportunity to be heard. By a majority vote of the board, written notice shall be sent to the membership at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which removal of a board member will be voted on. Removal shall occur by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present in person and voting at a regular meeting or special meeting called for such a purpose.

**ARTICLE V - ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1** - The election of the officers shall be held at the regular meeting in November of each year. At least 10 days written or electronic notice of such a meeting must be given by the Chair to each member entitled to vote as provided by the Constitution of the DPW. Only members whose dues are paid no later than five days prior to election is held shall be eligible to vote.

**ARTICLE VI - REGULAR AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1** - The LCDP shall hold its regular meetings once per month for at least 10 months a year. Scheduling decisions shall be made in order to maximize member attendance and engagement. Notice of date, time, and location of such meetings shall be mailed or electronically provided to each member at least ten (10) days before each meeting. Scheduled meetings shall be posted on the LCDP website.

**SECTION 2** - For purposes of conducting LCDP business, 20 or more members shall constitute a quorum.

**SECTION 3** - The Executive Board shall hold monthly meetings within the first seven (7) days of each month. Notice of date, time, and location of such meetings shall be mailed or electronically provided to each board member at least ten (10) days before such meeting. Scheduled Executive Board meetings shall be posted on the LCDP website.

**ARTICLE VII - SPECIAL MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1** - Special meetings of the LCDP can be called by a majority of the Executive Board or by the officers of the LCDP for the purpose of hearing any urgent matters. The time and location of the meeting and the context of the matter to be discussed shall be sent to each member at least three days in advance.

**SECTION 2** - For special meetings a quorum shall consist of 25 members or 10% of current membership, whichever is greater.

**SECTION 3** - Special meetings of the Executive Board can be called by any one Executive Board member with the concurrence of at least two other Executive Board members to consider any urgent matters that must be dealt with before the next regular meeting. The context of the matter to be discussed and the time and location of the meeting shall be publicly posted on the LCDP website as soon as possible and sent to each Executive Board member and LCDP members at least three days in advance. Special meetings of the Executive Board may be held by electronic conference if a majority of the Executive Board deems it appropriate.

**SECTION 4** - A quorum for purposes of a special meeting of the Executive Board is six members.

**ARTICLE VIII - RULES OF ORDER**

**SECTION 1** - All business shall be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order except as provided therein and accepted that the Order of Business shall be as determined by the Chair. Otherwise, actions and discussion shall follow normal generally accepted meeting practices. New business shall be in order in every regular meeting. Business at a special meeting shall be of such nature as indicated in the call for the meeting.

**ARTICLE IX - SOLICITATION OF FUNDS**

**SECTION 1** - No contributions to the Democratic Party shall be solicited by any member of the organization except when such solicitation is authorized by the Executive Board, or the membership, and is made in the name of the National, State, 3rd District or County Party organization.

**ARTICLE X - ENDORSEMENTS OF CANDIDATES IN ELECTIONS**

**SECTION 1** - In accordance with the DPW constitution, the LCDP is prohibited from endorsing or supporting any candidate in a Democratic presidential preference election or any partisan primary election which will determine the candidate of the Democratic Party for the ensuing election to office unless the LCDP or congressional district recommends a certain candidate (or candidates) be endorsed or supported due to unusual circumstances and these circumstances be submitted in writing to the state Administrative Committee in a timely manner for approval of an endorsement and support of a specific candidate (or candidates) for a specific reason and the Administrative Committee approves said recommendation by a two-thirds majority.

**SECTION 2** - No endorsement of primary candidates for any non-partisan office will be made by this organization. This shall not prohibit officers and members from being active as individuals on behalf of candidates for any non-partisan offices.

**SECTION 3** - An officer, Executive Board member, or designated spokesperson may publicly endorse only a candidate running on the Democratic Party ticket for any partisan election.

**ARTICLE XI - SELECTION OF DISTRICT AND STATE CONVENTION DELEGATES**

**SECTION 1** - Delegates for the 3rd Congressional District and State Convention shall be elected by the members at the regular monthly meeting at least 10 days preceding the district convention. The election of delegates shall be announced in writing at least three days before the regular meeting.

**SECTION 2** - A candidate for delegate or alternate must be a party member at least 14 days before the opening of the convention.

**SECTION 3** - If the number of nominees is less than the number of delegates awarded to La Crosse County, all will automatically be delegates to the 3rd Congressional District and State Convention. If the number of nominees is greater than the number of delegates, an election will be held. Members present at the meeting will vote for all of the non-automatic delegates. The nominees will be ranked in order of votes received. Those ranked too low to be named delegates will head the alternate list and be moved up in order of votes received. Ties will be broken by a coin toss or drawing of lots.

**SECTION 4** - Persons applying to be a delegate after the election will be named alternates. They will be moved up, if vacancies exist, in order of application after all alternates who participated in the election are elevated.

**ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

**SECTION 1 -** Any proposed amendment to this constitution can be introduced onto the floor at any regular meeting of the party with a written version being provided to the Chair. Said amendment shall be referred to the Executive Board prior to submission to the general membership.

**SECTION 2** - Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to all members within four months of their submission to the Executive Board and at least 10 days in advance of the regular meeting at which they are to be considered.

**SECTION 3** - A quorum shall consist of 25 members or 10% of current membership, whichever is greater.

**SECTION 4** - The constitution is deemed amended by a 2/3 vote of the members voting.

**SECTION 5 -** Amendments to the constitution shall require two readings and the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present at the meeting called for that purpose. Notice of the meeting shall follow the same requirements as an election meeting.

**SECTION 6** - Amendments must also be ratified by the State Administrative Committee as described in the Constitution of the DPW, Article VI, Section 2.

**ARTICLE XIII - PUBLICATION OF CONSTITUTION**

**SECTION l** - This Constitution shall be printed in permanent form and kept by the Secretary. Copies will be made available to members on demand.

**SECTION 2** - This Constitution shall be ratified every two years in July of odd numbered years, signed by the Chair and a copy forwarded to the DPW.

**ARTICLE XIV - EFFECT OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 1** - All provisions of the LCDP Constitution which are inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution or By-Laws of the DPW shall be null and void.

**SECTION 2** - This Constitution shall supersede all previous motions and rules to the contrary made by the LCDP and any previous Constitution adopted by the organization.

Amended at regular meeting on August 19, 2019

Michael Smuksta, Chair

Michael Smuksta, Chair

Copy to DPW on August 20, 2019 by David Wulf, LCDP Secretary

Approved by DPW Constitution & By-Laws Committee on June 9, 2020