

**By-Laws of the  
Bonhomme Township Democratic Club**  
(Amended 1994)

**Preamble**

The name of this organization shall be the Bonhomme Township Democratic Club, hereinafter referred to as the "Club". The official address of the club shall be the address of the corresponding Secretary.

The purposes of the Club are: To stimulate in the public, an active interest in governmental affairs; to increase the efficiency of government at all levels and to increase and encourage the participation of persons in political affairs; to perpetuate the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party; to promote the ideal that supreme law shall be the welfare of all the people; and to support by aggressive action, the nominees and platforms of the Democratic Party, locally, in this state and Nationally.

**ARTICLE I  
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership in this club shall be open to all declared Democratic residents of Bonhomme Township of at least eighteen years of age, and who are in accord with the purposes, aims and objectives of the Club.

Section 2. Only those members who are the legal voting age may hold an elected office in the Club. No member shall be eligible to vote upon election of officers unless he or she shall have been a paid member the previous year or have been a paid member at least 90 days prior to voting.

Section 3. The only qualification other than those set out in section 1 of this article for membership in this club shall be the payment of dues by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Membership dues not paid by April 1<sup>st</sup> will be considered delinquent and the member may be dropped from the membership rolls. Dues are \$10 per person and \$15 per household.

Section 4. Non-residents of Bonhomme Township and persons under the age of 18 are allowed Associate Memberships. Then Associate Membership carries no voting or office holding privileges. Dues for the Associate Membership are the same as stated in section 3.

Section 5. Proxy votes will not be allowed, and a Member must appear in person to cast a vote on any issue or provision before the Club.

Section 6. Any member of the club may be removed from the rolls for failure to pay dues for a period of 90 days after receiving 30 days written notice of dues owed. Any member may be censured or removed from the rolls if the following conditions are met: a) the member deliberately committed an act causing monetary damages to the club; or is affiliated with an organization aligned with a political party posting candidates for any office other than the Democratic Party; or has engaged in disruptive behavior at Club meetings or functions of a nature that if they had been committed as a delegate to the Missouri State Democratic Convention, the Chair could have the person removed from the convention sessions; b) The Executive Committee shall have voted in favor of presenting to the entire membership, the issue of weather to censure or expel the member, and shall have set a meeting date no sooner than 30 days thereafter, at which the issue will be presented; c) written notice of the proposed action approved by the Executive Committee, mailed within 10 days following the Executive Committee's decision, shall

be sent to the member and shall state the proposed action, the time , the date and place for the meeting at which the issue will be presented to the membership for consideration and the reasons the Executive Committee has given it's approval; d)

written notice of the meeting to decide expulsion or censorship by the general membership shall be sent at least 14 days in advance; e) at the meeting called to consider the proposed censure or expulsion, the Executive Committee shall present reasons it supports the proposed action, and the accused member shall be given an opportunity to present reasons why the proposed action should not be taken; f) a vote on the matter shall be by secret ballot; g) two-thirds of those members in attendance at the meeting shall have voted in favor of the proposed censure or expulsion.

## **ARTICLE II OFFICERS**

The following shall be the officers of the club:

Section 1. A President shall be the executive officer of the Club. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Executive Committee; he or she shall have the power, with the consent of the Executive Committee, to call special meetings of the club whenever such is deemed necessary; to appoint the members of all the committees and to establish new committees with the consent of the Executive Committee; and to do all other things necessary in order to carry out the functions of the office. The President shall serve on all committees in an ex officio capacity. The President shall co-sign checks and shall sign written contracts and other legal obligations of the Club.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall serve in all capacities in the absence of the President, or as directed by the President.

Section 3. A Recording Secretary whose duty shall be the recording of minutes of the proceedings of all meetings of the Club and the Executive Committee; the keeping of a separate record up-to-date on all matters passed upon by the club and the keeping of an up-to-date record of the membership of all committees of the Club.

Section 4. A Corresponding Secretary whose duty shall be to provide for all correspondence of the Club, announcements of meetings and special events; and to keep an accurate and up-to-date record of the members of the Club as well as a list of the known Democrats in the Township.

Section 5. A Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Club. The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the organization; shall record dues paid by individual members of the organization and forward their names to the President, Corresponding Secretary, and membership chairperson; shall keep an accurate and up-to-date record of the financial condition of the club *and shall report same at every meeting*; and shall pay all approved bills incurred by the Club. A checking account shall be opened at an appropriate institution in the name of the club as approved by the Executive committee. All checks drawn on the account shall be signed by at least two of the following officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary.

Section 6. A Sergeant-at-Arms may be appointed by the President, or Vice President in the Presidents absence. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain order at all meetings, and have the authority to remove persons from the meeting when asked to by the President, or Vice President in the President's absence.

Section 7. The Officers of this Club shall be elected for a term of two years at the second meeting of the calendar year between General Elections, by vote of the Club. No person may serve more than two terms in the same office. Any officer elected may be removed for cause by a vote of no less than two-thirds of those members in attendance at a regular meeting of the organization, provided said officer shall be first notified in writing that such action shall be considered.

Section 8. Nominations shall be made for the officers of the club in the following manner: A Nominating Committee, which will include the Committeeman and

Committeewoman, shall number at least 3 persons, but not more than 5 persons and shall be appointed by the President. The nominating Committee shall prepare a list of nominees, which, together with a notice of the coming election shall be mailed to all members at least 15 days prior to said election. Additional nominations may be made from the floor one month prior to the election or by unanimous consent of the club members present at the election meeting.

Section 9. In the event of a vacancy of any office, the Executive Officer shall appoint a Nominating Committee of 3 members in good standing to submit nominations for the vacancy and to conduct an election at the next meeting with at least 15 days prior notice given to the membership, with consent of the Nominating Committee.

Section 10. There should be a concerted effort for gender parity among the officers of the Club.

### **ARTICLE III** **COMMITTEES**

The following shall be the standing committees of the Club:

Section 1. An Executive Committee composed of the elected officers of the club as set out in Article II shall include: the immediate past Club President, providing that person is a paid member in good standing; also, the Committeeman and Committeewoman of Bonhomme Township, the chair of the other Standing Committees and the Chair of any Special Committees whom the Executive Committee shall select to join its number. A majority of elected officers and at least one Committeeperson shall qualify as a quorum. Notice of a meeting must be given to each member of the executive committee at least 24 hours in advance of a meeting.

Section 2. The Program Committee will be responsible for selecting and securing speakers for monthly Club meetings and special community presentations.

Section 3. The Membership Committee will be responsible for obtaining new members and introducing them to the Club as well as with reinstating former members. This Committee will have the duty of providing a person at meetings to greet all persons with an emphasis on making visitors and new members welcome.

Section 4. The Refreshments Director, appointed by the President, will purchase, (at the Club's expense), prepare and serve refreshments at club functions and meetings; and to enlist others to help with such duties.

Section 5. The Legislative Committee will analyze and report on relevant and current legislation in written form no less than 5 days prior to the regularly scheduled Club meetings. It will maintain a record of name, office, and mailing address of legislators of the national, state and county level. It will recommend means by which Club Members can persuade or influence legislation through letters, petitions, etc.

Section 6. The Public Relations Director will be appointed by the President and will be responsible for the news releases to the press, radio, and Television; photographic coverage of Club functions, and anything else having to do with publicity of the Club.

Section 7. The Fund Raising Committee shall be responsible for raising funds for the Club, for Democratic functions sanctioned by the Club and for community benefits sponsored by the Club.

Section 8. The Endorsement Committee shall include the Committeeman, Committeewoman, the President, Vice President, the Chair of the Legislative Committee and the Chair of any standing Campaign Committee. The Endorsement Committee shall consider the qualificationsof all candidates seeking nomination in the Democratic Primary Election and shall present its

recommendations for endorsement to the membership at the Endorsement Meeting of the Organization.

### **ARTICLE IV**

**MEETINGS**

Section 1. The Club shall have the power in any meeting of the Club to do anything not herein prohibited or not contrary to the purposes, aims and objectives of the Club.

Section 2. The conduct of all meetings shall be when not in conflict with these by-laws or the articles of incorporation, governed by procedure by Robert Rules of Order.

Section 3. There shall be a meeting of the club at least once every three months and at such other times as the Executive Committee or the Club shall direct.

Section 4. Ten members in good standing of the Club shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

Section 5. The President shall have the right to vote on all occasions when a written ballot is taken, and in the election of officers and for the endorsement of a candidate(s). Otherwise the President shall have the right to vote only in the case of a tie.

Section 6. The Chair of any meeting or event sponsored by the club has the authority to determine the order in which an attendee may speak and to limit the time to discuss any issue, provided that such order and time limits are stated prior to the commencement of discussion on the matter and are reasonably equitable to all persons involved. The members in attendance may vote to limit debate on any issue at any time by a two-thirds vote. The Chair has the authority to temporarily expel any attendee from any meeting or event sponsored by the Club for engaging in "disruptive behavior". The term Disruptive Behavior shall include any act or behavior which, if engaged in by a delegate to the Missouri State Democratic Convention would allow the Chair to have said person removed from a convention session. The Chair has the right to ask anyone known to be affiliated with any political party other than the Democratic Party to leave any meeting.

**ARTICLE V**

**ENDORSEMENT MEETINGS**

The following provisions shall govern the calling and holding of an Endorsement meeting for the Club:

Section 1. Every election year, by no later than 60 days prior to the August Primary Election, the members of the Executive Committee or members shall call a special meeting for the purpose of Club members to endorse qualified Democratic candidates running within the boundaries of the Bonhomme Township, or any issue on the August election that the voters within Bonhomme Township are allowed to vote on **by the club**. The latest of such meetings shall be scheduled no later than 45 days prior to the date of the August primary election. Once such meeting or meetings have been scheduled, written notice thereof shall be sent to each member of the Club at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting(s). At the pleasure of the members in attendance thereat, any endorsement meeting may be continued to a future date provided said future date is at least 45 days prior to the date of the August primary election.

Section 2. To vote at an endorsement meeting a voter must meet **one** of the following requirements:

- (a) The voter must have had an initial date of membership in the Club which is before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year during which the endorsement meeting is held and said voter must have paid all dues owed the Club during his or her years of membership prior to the start of any voting at such endorsement meeting, or

(b) The voter must have become a member of the Club after December 31<sup>st</sup> of the preceding year and more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the Endorsement meeting in question.

Section 3. In holding any endorsement meeting, the following procedures shall be followed:

(a) If the President (or Vice President) shall be in attendance at the meeting then the President (or Vice President) shall serve as Chairperson for the meeting. If neither the President or Vice President be in attendance, then the Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, or Treasurer ( in that order ) shall serve as temporary Chairperson for the meeting.

(b) Prior to any vote being taken at an Endorsement meeting, persons in attendance at the meeting shall be allowed to speak on any candidate provided that cumulatively the time used for speeches for a particular candidate do not exceed 3 minutes. Unless otherwise agreed to by the speakers, speaking time shall be allocated to each candidate first by ranking each of the various offices in the order they are to appear to appear on the ballot and by next arranging each of the candidates for a given office in the order which they filed for the nomination.

(c) After the conclusion of all introductory speeches as described in subparagraph (b) above, members in attendance may nominate any candidate for endorsement by the Club. The name of any candidate who is not nominated shall be stricken from any preprinted ballot before voting occurs.

(d) Except as provided elsewhere herein, voting at an endorsement meeting shall be by secret written ballot. Any pre-printed ballot shall contain a listing, by office, of all candidates who have filed for the Democratic Primary, in the order which they will appear on the ballot and shall contain a blank line for write-in voting and a line to vote "No Endorsement". If there is only one candidate running for nomination for a given office or if no one is endorsed for a given office, then the members attending the endorsement meeting may vote to grant an endorsement by voice vote.

(e) The Chair shall appoint at least 3 persons who will be responsible for counting the ballots.

(f) To receive an endorsement for office, a candidate must receive approval of at least a majority of those eligible members voting on the issue. If there are more than two candidates for an office nominated for endorsement and if no candidate nominated or "No Endorsement" receives a majority of the votes cast, then, unless a majority of the members present object, there shall be a run-off vote between the **two** nominated candidates receiving the highest vote total in the prior vote. If a majority of the members object to a run-off vote, then it shall be deemed that no endorsement is being made for the office in question.

(g) If the president shall receive a written request for reconsideration of any prior endorsement executed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the members of the Club eligible to vote at the applicable endorsement meeting, then at the first regular meeting of the Club to occur thereafter, the president shall place the question of reconsideration before the members for a vote. If two-thirds of the

members then in attendance vote to have the question reconsidered, then the President shall schedule a reconvening of the endorsement meeting at the first opportunity, provided the date set for such reconvened session is no sooner than

10 days following the vote to reconsider and no later than 45 days before the applicable August Primary Election. At such reconvened session of the applicable endorsement meeting, the only issues open for a vote are those matters duly approved for reconsideration. If the club votes to reconsider an endorsement vote, but under the above restrictions it is not possible to hold a reconvened session of the endorsement meeting in question, then a vote to reconsider shall represent a vote to have no endorsement for the office in question. The same group of club members may only make one request for reconsideration per office for which an endorsement was made during a given election year. At any reconvened session of an endorsement meeting, the same speaking procedures and voting procedures as were applicable for the prior session shall apply.

(h) An endorsement meeting or a reconvened session thereof shall be deemed to be a duly sanctioned meeting of the Club and the same rules and procedures as are applicable to the holding of a regular meeting of the Club shall apply to the holding of an endorsement meeting or a reconvened session thereof.