

Michigan DEMOCRATIC PARTY SENIOR CAUCUS

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

1. NAME. This organization shall be known as the Senior Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party.
2. The membership shall consist of those Michigan Democratic Party Members who chose to join the Senior Caucus.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this organization will be to effect public policy by bringing focus and accountability on senior issues to the leaders of the Michigan Democratic Party and to those elected under the Democratic Party both in Lansing and Washington.
2. The Senior Caucus will work toward educating and informing seniors, the Michigan Democratic Party, and other constituent groups of the state electorate on issues involved in local, county, state, and national elections that affect seniors.
3. The Senior Caucus will work to remove barriers that prevent Seniors from exercising their right and opportunity to vote.
4. The Senior Caucus will give voice to seniors within the Michigan Democratic Party.
5. The Senior Caucus will work with the County and District Parties to bring issues and information to the local level and work with them to put forth Resolutions to improve the lives of seniors in the state and nation.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

1. GENERAL STATEMENT. Voting members and supporting members. Membership is open to all members of the Michigan Democratic Party age 50 or older, regardless of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic, gender identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance, or disability.
2. SUPPORTING MEMBERS. Supporting members must be of voting age under the rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and must support the organization's purpose, goals, and philosophies. Supporting members may attend all meetings and speak on issues.
3. VOTING MEMBERS. Voting members must meet all the qualifications of supporting members, be members of the Michigan Democratic Party and Senior Caucus for at least 30 days prior to any Caucus membership meeting and be at least 50 years of age. They may propose motions, speak, and vote.
4. A member's term begins when they meet the qualifications for membership and will continue until they resign or give up membership in the Michigan Democratic Party.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

1. **REGULAR MEETINGS OF MEMBERSHIP.** Regular meetings of members are held quarterly, virtually, at the time specified by the Board of Directors.
2. Election of officers will occur at the January meeting in the odd numbered year prior to the Michigan Democratic Party Spring Convention.
3. Special meetings may be called by the Chair for reasons stated in the Call.
4. Meeting notice must be given at least five days before the meeting stating date and time.
5. A quorum is reached when 10 members or a majority of the officers are present.
6. No proxy voting is allowed.
7. If a member requires assistance to attend a meeting, they can have a "helper" to assist them to:
 - Facilitate communication for the member.
 - Make or second a motion, participate in the debate of a motion and vote for or against a motion.
 - Assist a member in other tasks, as needed, during the meeting. For example: to dial a member's phone number, or set-up a member's computer to connect with a meeting or read a statement at the member's request.
8. The Chair or Vice Chair shall facilitate all meetings. If the Chair is unavailable, the Vice Chair shall facilitate the meeting. If both are unavailable the meeting will be rescheduled, or the Board of Directors will appoint a member to facilitate the meeting.
9. All rules and bylaws of the Senior Caucus shall be consistent with the rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and shall be available on request in writing to any member.

ARTICLE V

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The Board of Directors will be composed of:
 - a. two voting senior members from each Congressional District,
 - b. the officers of the Senior Caucus as allowed under these bylaws,

- c. the remaining At Large Directors will be elected without regard to where they reside in Michigan.
2. The Board of Directors will select a nominating committee that will present a slate of officers and At Large directors at the meeting held to elect officers as mentioned above.
3. Additional candidates may be nominated by petition signed by a candidate and two other members.
4. Elections will be decided by plurality vote at the election meeting.
5. Vacancies may be filled by a majority of the Board of Directors.
6. Term of office is two years and ends with the next election meeting.
7. A member of the Board of Directors may be removed for cause by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The Board of Directors will meet virtually on the 3rd Wednesday of every other month at a time set by the Chair.
2. In months where the quarterly meeting and Board of Directors both meet the meetings will be held jointly.
3. A quorum is reached when one-third of the Board of Directors are in attendance.
4. No proxies may be used.
5. Debate is limited to three minutes per member until all who have been recognized have had an opportunity to speak.
6. Voting procedure at board meetings is in accordance with the rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VII

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The Senior Caucus will have the following standing committees:
 - a. Voting Rights
 - b. Legislative Affairs
 - c. Budget & Finance

- d. Communications
2. Standing Committee Chairs will be appointed by the Chair.
3. Members of the Standing Committees will be selected by the Chair of the Standing committee with the assistance and approval of the Chair.
4. Members of the Standing Committees must be members of the Senior Caucus.
5. Resource people may be used to assist standing Committees in performance of their function.

ARTICLE VIII

TEMPORARY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT.

Temporary Committees may be appointed by the Chair for a specific purpose such as bylaw committee or a committee to perform a certain task or function.

ARTICLE IX

OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Senior caucus shall be:
 - a. The Chair who shall preside over all meetings.
 - b. The Vice Chair who shall be of the opposite gender of the Chair and will assist the chair and conduct meetings in the absence of the Chair.
 - c. The Secretary who will take minutes of all meetings of the Senior caucus membership and Board of Directors.
 - d. The Treasurer who will establish an administrative account and promote fundraising to assist the Senior Caucus in taking care of necessary expenses.
 - e. Diversity shall be encouraged in the composition of the Board of Directors and Officers

ARTICLE X

DURATION AND DISSOLUTION

1. The Senior Caucus will continue as long as Seniors have rights and needs that require advocacy and protection.
2. Should the Senior Caucus ever dissolve, all remaining funds after paying all debts shall be turned over to the Michigan Democratic Party.

ARTICLE XI

MISCELLANEOUS

1. The Caucus will be operated under IRS code 527 as a non-profit organization.
2. The unit rule is prohibited.
3. No secret ballots may be taken.
4. These bylaws will be in effect when passed by a meeting of the Board of Directors and will be submitted to the Michigan Democratic Party for approval.

ARTICLE XII

AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS

1. Should the need arise to amend these bylaws the Chair will appoint a temporary committee to receive suggested revisions and report back to the next meeting of the Membership.
2. After reading and discussing any proposed amendment to the bylaws, the amendment can be adopted or refused by a majority vote of those voting.

Date of passage by the Senior Caucus 4/19/2023

Date of approval by the MDP _____