



MONROE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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BILL LAVOY
CHAIR

Thank you for expressing your interest in becoming a precinct delegate to the county convention. This information package should be helpful to you.

GLORIA RAFKO
VICE CHAIR

Here are the steps to becoming a precinct delegate to the county convention:

DAN MINTON
SECOND VICE CHAIR

Step 1. Be a qualified and registered voters residing in the precinct they wish to represent.

TAMMY SPENCER
SECRETARY

If you are not sure about your voter registration status, check at the Michigan Voter Information Center on the Internet (www.michigan.gov/vote). Be sure to note the city or township and the precinct number in which you are registered to vote; you will need this for your Affidavit of Identity form.

ERNIE WHITESIDE
TREASURER

Step 2. Complete the Affidavit of Identity form which is specifically designed for use by precinct delegate candidates.

- Be sure to fill out all of the required information. A commonly overlooked item is the precinct number;
- Do NOT sign the form until you are in the presence of a notary public. The affidavit must be notarized to be valid; and
- Submit the affidavit to the county clerk's office after January 1st and before 4:00 PM on May 8th.

If you take your unsigned Affidavit of Identity to the clerk's office in person, someone there will notarize it for you. If you wish, Ernie Whiteside, will notarize your affidavit at the party office or a regular meeting; he can be contacted at (734) 735-0494.

Step 3. Be a member of the Michigan Democratic Party.

To participate in any meeting of the Monroe County Democratic Party, including its conventions, a person must be a "member" of the party. Participation includes such things as making and seconding motions or amendments to motions, speaking to the motions or their amendments, voting for or against motions or amendments, and seeking office in the party organization.

To be a member of the county party, a person must submit an application to the Michigan Democratic Party AND reside in Monroe County. Normally, a person must be a member for 30 or more days, but nominated candidates for state legislative office and county office as well as nominated precinct delegates are excluded from the 30 day rule and may immediately participate upon submission of their membership application.

You will be asked to contribute \$25 or more to the Michigan Democratic Party application and \$5 or more of that contribution is shared with the county party. But, no contribution is required if you write the word “FREE” in the other price. You can also apply or renew online with a contribution of \$10 or more at www.michigandems.com.

Your membership continues for one (1) year after the Michigan Democratic Party receives your application.

Q. What if I miss the filing deadline?

Many precinct delegates are nominated as “write-in” candidates. If you miss your filing deadline, let someone know and we will help you with it.

Q. How many delegates are nominated in each precinct?

The number of delegates allocated to each precinct varies based on the number of votes received by the party’s presidential candidate in 2016. No precinct has less than two (2) delegates, or more than ten (10), most have three (3) to six (6).

Election.

Precinct delegates are nominated in the regular Primary Election held on August 7, 2018. This is the same election where candidates of the party are nominated. All of the candidates of the party who are nominated for state legislative office or county office in the most recent Primary Election are delegates at large to the county convention.

Fall County Convention.

Delegates are notified of their successful nomination by the county clerk in a letter that includes the details of the fall county convention. The fall county conventions are all held on the same date across the state which is specified by the state central committee of the Michigan Democratic Party. The convention will be held between August 15th and September 1st, probably Saturday, August 18th.

The county fall conventions nominate delegates to the rules, credentials and/or platform committees of the state fall convention. The county convention may also suggest rules, credential requirements and/or platform changes to these state convention committees.

Some of the candidates for state office are nominated at the fall state convention.

Selecting Executive Committee Members.

County convention delegates reconvene after the General Election and by November 26th to select an executive committee for the 2019 thru 2020 election cycle. The delegate will probably reconvene on Saturday, November 18th.

One-third of the executive committee is filled by the candidates for state legislative office and county office that were most recently nominated in either of the two previous Primary Elections. The other two-thirds are selected by the county convention delegates.

The new executive committee meets later to elect its own officers.

Spring County Convention.

County convention delegates reconvene in the spring of odd years to nominate delegates to the rules, credentials and/or platform committees of the state fall convention. The county convention may also suggest rules, credential requirements and platform changes to these state convention committees.

State central committee members and offices of the state party are elected at the spring state convention.

Q. Is that it?

Yes ... and no. This letter lists the statutory duties of delegates to the county convention (aka precinct delegates), but precinct delegates are also the local activists of the party. Sometimes precinct delegates become part of the executive committee and some become officers of the party.

Officers, Executive Committee and County Committee.

The officers of the party do the day-to-day business of the party.

The executive committee meets monthly between county committee meetings to approve the work done by the officer and to give the officers direction.

The county committee is a “committee of the whole” and it meets quarterly to approve work done by the officers and executive committee and give direction to the county party. All members of the county party are also members of the county committee. Since all precinct delegates are expected to be members of the county party, they are also expected to be members of the county committee.

Q. Is there more to do?

Yes, there is always more to do. Being an activist of the party can be as big or small as you wish. There are subcommittees for membership, fundraising, candidate recruitment and more. Any member can be part of a subcommittee. Local activists work together to support candidates and ballot issue. Precinct level committees can also be created where there are enough activists.

Some members may wish to form or join a caucus or club such as young democrats or progress democrats clubs or a woman's, veterans or labor caucus. There are also annual events that need volunteer support such as parades and festivals where the party has a parade entry or a table.

There are far more things to do than there are people to do them. Phone banking and canvassing teams could be organized with more volunteers. The party needs social media activists, a newsletter staff, a photographer and a video team. We need people who will write letters to the editor and organize town halls, rallies and other public events; or smaller events in kitchen, yard or on the sidewalk.

Be or Support a Candidate.

This isn't for everyone but some of our members really need to come forward and become or support in a big way the local candidates of the party. Every year there are offices were no Democrat runs or were finding a Democrat to run is difficult.

None of our precinct delegates do or are even able to do all of the things that can and should be done. But with more participation the party will do a better job of electing its candidates and supporting its ballot issues.

Thank you for your support, however much or little that is,



Bill LaVoy
Chair