

ERIE COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
BY-LAWS

APPROVED APRIL 3, 1986

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PREAMBLE

We, the Democratic Party of Erie County, realize that the struggle to better the standard of living for all those who reside in our community is based in large measure on the political and economic decisions of those in elected office. We dedicate this organization to uniting all citizens of Erie County, regardless of religious beliefs, age, sex, nationality, race, creed, or craft in furtherance of political activity that will improve the quality of life for all our citizens.

We further believe that the preservation of our freedom and the advancement of our economic well-being requires that our democratic institutions and our civil rights and liberties be preserved, strengthened and extended. To these ends, we declare as follows:

1. This organization will be known as the Erie County Democratic Party (hereinafter referred to as the E.C.D.P.).
2. This organization will be affiliated with the State of Pennsylvania and the National Democratic Party. It will also be affiliated with the Northwest Caucus and other bonafide organizations within and approved by the State Party.
3. It will be the object of this organization to elect those Democrats who protect, maintain, and advance the ideals of our Party.
4. The objectives and purposes of the Party are to protect, represent, maintain, and advance the interests of registered Democrats, and to engage in legislative, political, educational, civic, welfare, and other activities which directly or indirectly further the interests of our Democratic Party.
5. The jurisdiction of the Erie County Democratic Party will consist of registered Democrats residing in Erie County, Pennsylvania.
6. All registered Democrats residing in Erie County are members of the Erie County Democratic Party regardless of age, sex, nationality, color, religious beliefs, or marital status.
7. The elected officers of this organization will be the Party Chair, a Vice Chairlady and Vice Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer, a Sergeant-at-Arms and a Parliamentarian.

**RULES GOVERNING THE DEMOCRATIC
PARTY OF ERIE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ARTICLE I

PARTY STRUCTURE

1. The organization of the Erie County Democratic Party will consist of:
 - (1) A County Committee;
 - (2) City Wards and County District Organizations; and
 - (3) A County Executive Committee

ARTICLE II

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Rule 1.

The County Committee shall be composed of one Committeeman and one Committeewoman, being duly qualified Democratic electors, from each voting district in the County of Erie, voted for and elected by the Democratic voters of their respective districts, or, if no candidate runs for election, appointed as hereinafter set forth..

Rule 2.

All Committeemen and Committeewomen must reside in the district they are chosen to represent.

Rule 3.

The members of the County Committee shall be elected at the Spring Primary held in each Gubernatorial Election year and they will hold their office for a term of four (4) years (commencing within 30 days of the Spring Primary), or until their respective successors have been elected, or appointed and take office as hereinafter provided in Article II, Rule 4.

Rule 4.

Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of Committeeman or Committeewoman due to death, resignation, removal or otherwise, such vacancy shall be filled by the ward or district subject to a majority vote of the County Executive Committee. In the event that the Ward or District organization fails to appoint and seek approval of a Democrat to fill such position within six (6) months of the occurrence of the vacancy, the County Chair may appoint a qualified Democrat to fill such Committee position subject to the consent of the Executive Committee within six (6) months of

such appointment.

Rule 5.

Whenever any officer or member of the County Committee or any ward or district officer neglects or refuses to attend to the duties of his or her office, or is known to be acting with the opposition, his or her office will be declared vacant by the County Chair after recommendation to do so has been certified to the Chair by the County Executive Committee following proper investigation made and a hearing of the facts made pertaining to any such matters, by the said Executive Committee.

Rule 6.

Whenever new election districts are created, the ward or district will appoint a Committeeman and a Committeewoman in each district. If no Committeeman or Committeewoman is so appointed within six (6) months of the creation of such position, then the County Chair may appoint Democrats to those positions subject to the consent of the Executive Committee within six (6) months of such appointment.

Rule 7.

A regular organizational meeting of the County Committee must be called by the County Chair thereof bi-annually within forty five (45) days following the Spring Primary held in each Gubernatorial Election year, at which the Committee shall organize by electing a Chair, Vice Chairman and Vice Chairlady (first Vice Chair shall be of the opposite gender from the Chair, and second Vice Chair shall be a person of the opposite gender from the First Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms and Parliamentarian who may be chosen from within their membership or be a member in good standing of the E.C.D.P. for five (5) consecutive years. Said officers will serve for a period of four (4) years, or until their successors will have been duly elected, or appointed and will be elected by a majority vote.

Rule 8.

A regular meeting of the County Committee will be called by the Chair within sixty (60) days preceding a Primary Election or a General Election. In addition to the above regularly scheduled meetings, there will be two (2) informational meetings called by the Chair in the first and third quarters.

Rule 9.

A special meeting of the County Committee may be called by the Chair whenever he, at his

discretion, deems the same necessary, and shall be called by the Chair upon receipt of a written petition joined in and signed by thirty-four (34) or more members of the County Committee requesting a special meeting. In the event that such a meeting is requested, the purpose and agenda for such meeting shall be clearly set forth in the petition, and the business conducted at such meeting shall be limited to the purposes set forth in the petition.

Rule 10.

A written or printed notice of every regular, informational, or special meeting must be mailed each and every Committeeman and Committeewoman not less than ten (10) days, nor more than thirty (30) days before the date fixed for such meeting.

Rule 11.

Forty (40) members of the County Committee will constitute a quorum of a regular, informational, or special meeting; and, no member may vote at such meeting unless he or she be present in person. No proxies will be accepted.

Rule 12.

The following will constitute the order of business and procedure at the regular organizational meeting to be conducted within thirty (30) days following the Spring Primary in each Gubernatorial Election year:

- (1) Election of a temporary Chair from within the membership of the County Committee to conduct the meeting until the election of the regular County Chair has been effected, said temporary Chair, however, not to be a candidate for any of the offices to be voted on by the County Committee.
- (2) Roll call of members by the Secretary, either orally or written.
- (3) Reading of the minutes of the previous regular or informational, as well as special meetings in the interim.
- (4) Report by the Treasurer on the condition of finances by the Committee.
- (5) Appointment of three (3) disinterested tellers of election by the Temporary Chair. Each candidate may appoint from within the membership of the Committee an inspector to whom the tellers shall extend every reasonable facility for checking the votes cast.
- (6) Nominations of officers.

- (7) Roll call and election of officers.
- (8) Old or Unfinished business.
- (1)
- (9) Committee Reports
 - 1. State Committee Report
 - 2. Grievance Committee Report
 - 3. Other Committee Reports
- (10) New business.
- (11) Adjournment.

ARTICLE III

OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE

Rule 1. Chair

- (1) The County Chair will preside at all business meetings of the County and executive Committees and perform such other duties as required in the by-laws of the E.C.D.P. or which from time to time may be delegated to him by the Executive Committee. He will decide all questions or disputes not controlled by the laws of the E.C.D.P. He will countersign orders and checks properly drawn on or by the Treasurer. He will appoint committees not otherwise provided for and enforce the By-laws of the E.C.D.P.
- (2) At the regular quadrennial (four-year) organizational meeting of the County Committee for the election of new officers, the County Chair's position will be filled by a temporary Chair elected by a majority of the Committee members present. He must also be from within the membership of the County Committee. Such temporary Chair will conduct the said election meeting until a new County Chair has been elected.
- (3) If at anytime the Chair decides to run for elected office, he or she must resign from the Chairship when he or she announces his or her candidacy and turn such position over to the First Vice Chair.

Rule 2. First Vice Chair (Vice Chair or Vice Chairlady)

- (1) The First Vice Chair will see that all property of the E.C.D.P. has proper care. He will preside at all meetings in the absence of the Chair. In the event of the absence of the Chair or the existence of a vacancy in the Chairship, the First Vice Chairperson will call all

meetings of the County Committee hereinafter provided in Article II, Rule 8. In case of death, removal, or resignation of the Chair, the First Vice Chair will become the Chair until a special meeting is called per Article V, a and b.

Rule 3. Second Vice Chairperson (Vice Chair)

- (1) The Second Vice Chairperson will be responsible for attending all appointed committee meetings. In case of the absence or vacancy of the First Vice Chairperson, the Second Vice Chairperson will assume his or her duties.

Rule 4. Secretary

- (1) The Secretary will keep a full and accurate record of all meetings of the County and Executive Committees in a book provided for that purpose which he or she will deliver to his or her successor, at the expiration of his or her term of office. He or she will at all times be under the direction of and will perform such duties as the County Chair or the Executive Committee may direct. The Secretary will be responsible for a full and accurate mailing list of all County and Executive Committee members for notification and Roll Call, and shall be responsible for preparation and mailing of all notices of meetings of the Committee.
- (2) The Secretary will be responsible for reading all incoming correspondence and directing it to the proper party officials.

Rule 5. Treasurer

- (1) The Treasurer will receive and be the custodian of all monies of the County or Executive Committee. He will give a receipt therefor and deposit the same in a bank of sound financial standing in the name of the E.C. D.P. He will also pay out any funds directed to be spent and will make such payments personally and directly, taking original vouchers or receipts from the person or persons to whom such payments are made.
- (2) All expenditures by the Treasurer must first be authorized by the Fiscal Control Committee elected by the County Committee, at least one member of which will be the Treasurer. All checks drawn on the depository of the Committee funds will be signed and countersigned by the Chair and the Treasurer. The Treasurer will be a member of any party finance committee of any campaign, and he will co-sign all checks drawn by that committee.
- (3) Payments by the Treasurer are only to be made to said persons whose names appear on vouchers submitted and mailed to said person or delivered in person by the Treasurer.
- (4) The Treasurer will keep a systematic account in such a way as to show the receipts,

disbursements, and the balance of cash on hand at the close of each meeting of the E.C.D.P. He will file all receipted bills; keep a correct account between the E.C.D.P. and its members; and he will submit the books for auditing at the close of December of each year. (The books will be audited by two Trustees after audit by a CPA, and a report will be submitted to the E.C.D.P.) Upon election, the Treasurer will be bonded within thirty (30) days.

- (5) A detailed report, by the Treasurer, on the condition of the E.C.D.P. as certified to by a Public Accountant employed by the Executive Committee for that purpose, will be given at the end of each year.
- (6) It will be the duty of the Treasurer to comply strictly with the provisions of the Act of Assembly of March 5, 1906, commonly known as the Corrupt Practice Act and amendments thereto, and to prepare and file his account or accounts within the time limit prescribed in said Act.

Rule 6. Sergeant-at-Arms

- (1) The Sergeant-at-Arms will be responsible for a proper accounting of members at all County Committee meetings and Executive Committee meetings to assure a quorum. Upon completion of such accounting, the Sergeant-at-Arms will submit said accounting to the Secretary.
- (2) The Sergeant-at-Arms will also assist the County Chair in maintaining order during meetings.

Rule 7. Parliamentarian

- (1) The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for the conduct of meetings of the Committee in accordance with the latest revision of *Robert's Rules of Order*. Any questions regarding the conduct of such meeting shall be ruled upon by the Parliamentarian. The decision of the Parliamentarian shall be subject to overruling by two-thirds vote of those present or as otherwise provided in the latest revision of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

ARTICLE IV

**COMMITTEE OF THE WARDS OF THE CITY OF ERIE
AND COUNTY DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

Rule 1.

For the purpose of this organization, the City of Erie will be divided into six wards, to-wit: FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH, FIFTH, AND SIXTH.

Rule 2.

Outside of the City of Erie, the County of Erie shall be divided into five districts, to-wit:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| District No. 1 | Millcreek Township |
| District No. 2 | Fairview Township
Fairview Borough
Girard Township
Girard Borough
Lake City Borough
Platea Borough
Springfield Township
East Springfield Borough
Conneaut Township
Cranesville Borough
Albion Borough
Elk Creek Township
McKean Township
Middleboro Borough
Franklin Township
Washington Township |
| Edinboro Borough
District No. 3 | Summit Township
Waterford Township
Waterford Borough
LeBoeuf Township
Mill Village Borough
Green Township
Venango Township
Wattsburg Borough
Amity Township |

Union Township
Union City Borough

District No. 4 Corry City
 Wayne Township
 Concord Township
 Elgin Borough

District No. 5 Lawrence Park Township
 Wesleyville Borough
 Harborcreek Township
 North East Township
 North East Borough
 Greenfield Township

Rule 3.

The Committeemen and Committeewomen of each ward in the City of Erie and each district of the County of Erie will meet for the purpose of organization within forty five (45) days after certification of their election in the Spring Primary held in each even numbered year, at a time and place designated by the County Chair by notice mailed by the Secretary of the County Committee to the committee persons not less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting. At such meeting, the ward and county district committees will organize by electing a ward Chair or county district Chair, vice-Chair, secretary, and treasurer who may be chosen from within the membership of the County Committee in that particular ward or county meeting. At such meeting, the ward and county district committees will organize by electing a ward Chair or county district Chair, vice-Chair, secretary, and treasurer who may be chosen from within the membership of the County Committee in that particular ward or county district and said officers will serve for a period of two (2) years or until their successors will have been duly elected or appointed. All such officers must be duly registered Democrats.

Rule 4.

In the event that the Committeemen and Committeewomen in the various city wards and county districts have failed to meet an organize as above set forth, then it will become the duty of the county Chair to call a meeting of the Committeemen and Committeewomen from the particular city ward or county district for the purpose of organizing said city ward or county district and for the purpose of election of officers as above set forth.

Rule 5.

Ward and District Committees are authorized and empowered to make such rules to be

operative in their respective wards and districts as will be necessary for the selection, organization and government of such committees, provided that such rules will not be inconsistent with these rules or with the law, and will be approved by the County Executive Committee as provided in Rule 6 of this Article IV.

Rule 6.

The County Executive Committee is authorized and required to examine all ward and district rules and all amendments thereto, and no such rules or amendments will be effective until approved by the County Executive Committee provided, however, that if the County Executive Committee fails to take action approving or disapproving proposed rules or amendments within sixty (60) days after the date on which they are received for consideration, the said rules or amendments will automatically become effective.

Rule 7.

The County Chair may appoint a City Chair for the City of Erie for the purpose of coordinating and carrying out the activities of the Democratic Party in the City of Erie.

Rule 8.

Each Ward and District Committee is required to meet at least quarterly, and each Committee member in such Ward or District is required to attend. In the event that the Ward or District Chair fails to call such quarterly meeting for a six-month period, the County Chair may call such a meeting by giving notice to the Committee members as provided in Rule 3 of this Article. In the event that a Ward or District Chair fails to call such a meeting for a period of nine months, the Chair may call a reorganizational meeting of the Ward Committee for the purpose of electing a new Ward Chair..

Rule 9.

In the event that a Committee person fails to attend two consecutive meetings of the Ward, District or County Committee without reasonable prior excuse, the Ward or District Chair may declare the seat of such Committee person open and appoint a successor as provided herein. In the event that the Ward or District chair fails to appoint a person to fill a vacancy in the Ward or District committee for a period of six months, the County Chair may appoint a successor Committee person to fill such seat.

ARTICLE V

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rule 1.

The County Executive Committee will be composed as follows:

- (1) Officers of the County Committee;
- (2) Two (2) Delegates elected by each City Ward and County District;
- (3) State Committee Members;
- (4) President of the Democratic Women=s Council;
- (5) Ward and District Chairs;
- (6) Twenty (20) members appointed by the County Chair (Representative Democrats of the City of Erie and County of Erie), who shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair and who may be removed and replaced by the Chair with or without cause. The terms of appointed members of the Executive Committee shall expire at the conclusion of the Chair=s term or when the Chair leaves office, whichever is earlier.
- (7) All Democratic elected officials (to serve as a non-voting Advisory Board.)

Rule 2.

It will be the duty of the Executive Committee to advise and assist the Chair in determining matters of policy for the E.C.D.P. and in conducting the active and executive part of all political contests and elections as well as to perform such other duties as are herein elsewhere provided. The Executive Committee will meet prior to the meeting of the County Committee and at such other times as the County Chair may designate.

Rule 3.

If a Ward or District Delegate misses two (2) consecutive meetings without just cause, a new Delegate must be appointed form the respective Ward or District by the Ward or District Chair.; and

Rule 4.

It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to further perform the following, to-wit:

- (1) Fill any vacancy in the office of Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, or Sergeant-at-Arms until the next regular organizational meeting of the County Committee unless a special meeting is called for that purpose.

- (2) Determine when a vacancy in the County Committee should be effected and declared in cases provided for in Article II, Rule 5 herein.
- (3) Declare the office of a County Committee officer vacant as provided in Article III, Rule 2 herein.
- (4) Elect a Fiscal Control Committee consisting of three (3) members plus the Treasurer who are elected at the regular organizational meeting for the purpose of budgeting all expenditures to be made and sanctioning no expenditures beyond funds on hand. The Fiscal Control Committee will not have jurisdiction over campaign funds collected and expended in the General and Primary elections.
- (5) Give approval of the County Chair=s appointment of a Finance Committee from within or without the membership of the County Committee whose duties will be to secure funds with which to defray the expenses of the County Committee.
- (6) Designate one of the other officers to countersign all checks or drafts by the Treasurer in case the County Chair is unavailable to countersign.
- (2) A majority of the Executive Committee at any of its meetings shall constitute a quorum. Members of the Executive Committee shall hold office until their successors have been elected or appointed.

ARTICLE VI

CODE OF CONDUCT

Rule 1. Improper Conduct of Officers

The following actions or omissions will constitute misconduct by any officer of the E.C. D.P. which will warrant a reprimand, suspension from office, or any lesser penalty or any combination of these penalties as the evidence may warrant.

- (1) Incompetence, negligence, or insubordination in performance of official duties; or
- (2) Failure or refusal to perform duties validly assigned; or
- (1) Any violation specified in Rule 2 of this Article.

Rule 2. Improper Conduct of a Member

The following actions or omissions will constitute misconduct by a member which will warrant a reprimand or suspension from membership to the County Executive Committee and County Committee where warranted:

- (1) Refusal or failure to perform any duties or obligations imposed by the laws of the E.C.D.P.;
- (2) Attempting to instigate or encourage secession from the E.C. D.P.;
- (3) Attempting to instigate or supporting movements in the nomination (Primary) or election (General) process of members of the opposition party. This does not apply to registered Democrats who must cross file. Specifically such support would be defined as wearing, displaying or distributing the opponent=s literature; verbally expressing or requesting support for the opponent; or donating time or money or both to the opponent. Such acts must be verified by at least three (3) people.
- (4) Giving false or unfounded statements publicly about any Democratic candidate, officer, or member of the E.C.D.P.

Rule 3. Grievance Process

Grievances shall proceed as follows:

1. A charge of misconduct may be made against any officer or member of the E.C.D.P. by any member in writing, duly signed and properly notarized, to the proper officer of the body involved with a copy of such charges to the Democratic Chair.
2. A Grievance Committee of five (5) members will be elected at the regular organizational meeting, one of whom will act as Chair. The Grievance Committee will conduct an investigation of the charges and decide whether there is sufficient substance to warrant a trial. It will so recommend its findings at the next regular Executive Committee meeting.
3. If the Grievance Committee decides the charges should be dismissed on the basis of insufficient evidence, it will so recommend at the next regular Executive Committee meeting.
4. If the Executive Committee decides a formal trial is warranted, a nine (9) member Trial Committee appointed by the County Chair will proceed (appointed by the First Vice Chair if County Chair is himself on trial).
5. The Trial Committee will consider all of the evidence in the case and thereafter agree by a majority vote upon its verdict of guilty or not guilty. If the verdict be that of guilty, the Trial Committee will then consider and agree upon its recommendation of punishment. Following completion of these deliberations and conclusions, the Trial Committee will report at the

next regular meeting to enable the Executive Committee to vote on whether to accept or reject the Trial Committee=s recommendation.

ARTICLE VII

VACANCIES ON PARTY TICKETS

Rule 1.

The County Committee will have the power to fill all vacancies occurring on the County ticket as described under Rule VII, Section 3, of the State Committee Rules.

Rule 2.

Any vacancies on a Municipal, Borough, Township, Ward or District ticket caused by the death or withdrawal of a candidate either after the final date for filing nominating petitions or between the Primary and the General Election will be filled by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting required by Rule 3 of the County Committee who reside in the affected Municipality(ies), Borough(s), Township(s), Ward(s) or District(s).

Rule 3.

For the purpose of filling a vacancy on the County ticket, a special meeting of the County Committee will be called by the Chair after not less than five (5) days due notice by mail to each member of the Committee. In the case of vacancies affecting less than the entire County a special meeting will be called by the County Chair of the members of the County Committee from the affected City(ies), Borough(s), Township(s), Ward(s) or District(s) after not less than five (5) days due notice by mail to such members in the municipality affected. A quorum shall consist of twenty (20%) of the Committee Persons of the affected area.

Rule 4.

The officers of such meetings will have the authority to make and certify the nominations filling such vacancies.

ARTICLE VIII

ENDORSEMENTS

The E.C.D.P. may endorse candidates in primary elections if all of the following conditions are met:

Rule 1. - Endorsement Recommendation

The County Chair and the Ward and District Chairs whose Districts are affected, in whole or in part by a particular race (hereinafter referred to as the "Preliminary Endorsement Committee") shall meet to determine whether to call for endorsements at a meeting of the E.C.D.P. prior to the Primary Election. If two thirds (2/3) of the Preliminary Endorsement Committee for such race vote to call for endorsements, notice of an endorsement meeting shall be given as follows.

Rule 2. - Notice of Endorsement Meeting

Written notice of a meeting at which an endorsement vote is to be taken is given to all elected committee persons, Ward and District Chairs, officers of the E.C.D.P. and all registered Democrats who are candidates for the office(s) for which an endorsement vote will be taken no less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) days in advance of said meeting;

- a. Service of this written notice shall be accomplished by regular mail or hand delivery to the residence of each committee person, Ward or District Chair, officer of the E.C.D.P. and candidate for an office(s) for which an endorsement vote will be taken.
- b. The written notice shall set forth each office for which an endorsement is sought, together with the names of each democratic candidate seeking said office.

Rule 3. - Conduct of Endorsement Meeting

6. Each democratic candidate seeking an office for which an endorsement vote is taken is given an opportunity to speak to the E.C.D.P. County Committee immediately prior to any endorsement vote. The Chair shall set time limits of equal duration for each candidate's presentation. The Chair may allow questions and answers if the Chair finds questions and answers to be in the best interests of the E.C.D.P. However, any questions and answers must occur within the time limits allowed each candidate; and
7. In the event that the office sought does not affect the entire county, there shall first be a vote by the Committee persons of the affected Voting Districts to determine the endorsement. The procedure shall be by rule specially adopted for that purpose or, if no such special rule is adopted, all of the candidates seeking endorsement shall be put up for an initial vote. A Committee member may also vote for "No Endorsement" which shall count as a vote for purposes of determining a majority. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote on the first ballot, the names of all those but the candidate receiving the fewest votes on the first ballot shall be put up again. If no candidate receives a majority of votes on that ballot, the process shall be repeated until there are only two candidates left. If, on a vote between two candidates, neither receives a majority, there shall be no endorsement.. Once the

endorsement is determined by the Committee persons of the affected area, the endorsement shall be voted on by the entire E.C.D.P. If an endorsement desired by the affected Committee persons receives a majority of the votes of the entire Committee, the endorsement shall be accepted by the E.C.D.P. as the endorsement. No other names may be placed for consideration by the entire Committee than the one recommended by the Committee persons in the affected Voting Districts.

8. Endorsement votes in races affecting the entire county shall be taken pursuant to a Rule duly adopted by the Committee at the meeting where the endorsement vote is to be made. In default of the adoption of a special rule, all of the candidates seeking endorsement shall be put up for an initial vote. A Committee member may also vote for "No Endorsement" which shall count as a vote for purposes of determining a majority. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote on the first ballot, the names of all those but the candidate receiving the fewest votes on the first ballot shall be put up again. If no candidate receives a majority of votes on that ballot, the process shall be repeated until there are only two candidates left. If, on a vote between two candidates, neither receives a majority, there shall be no endorsement.

Rule 4 - Eligibility to vote

Persons entitled to vote are elected Committee people or duly appointed committee people confirmed by the Executive Committee, Ward and District Chairs and Officers of the E.C.D.P.

Rule 5 - Considerations for endorsement

In considering candidates for endorsement, it is the policy of the E.C.D.P. to consider the following criteria:

- a. The candidate's qualifications, including experience gained from incumbency.
- b. The candidate's position on issues relevant to the office sought by the candidate;
- c. The candidate's character;
- d. The candidate's likelihood of success in the general election;
- e. The likelihood that the candidate will seek re-election;
- f. The candidate's history of supporting, advancing and promoting the ideals of the E.C.D.P.;
- g. The candidate's potential for advancement;

- h. The candidate's capacity to bridge cultural, generational, ethnic, gender, racial, economic and political barriers for the benefit of the citizenry of Erie County and the advancement of the ideals of the E.C.D.P.; and
- i. Any other relevant criteria.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

These bylaws may be amended by any regular or special meetings of the County Committee, the call for which will contain notices that alterations or amendments will be proposed, provided that a majority of the members of the Committee attending said meeting shall vote in favor thereof. Upon the written request (by petition) of the thirty-four (34) member of the County Committee, the County Chair or Executive Committee will call for a meeting by mailed notice stating that new bylaws or amendments will be proposed at the meeting for which the call is issued.

A committee appointed by the County Chair consisting of three (3) members will review these bylaws every two years. After this review, such Committee will recommend whether revisions or amendments are required.

ARTICLE X

The conduct and procedure of all meetings will be in accordance with these bylaws and those Rules of Parliamentary law known as "Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised."

All meetings of the E.C.D.P. and any Ward, District or Committee thereof shall be held in a facility that is accessible to all, regardless of physical limitations.

ARTICLE XI

REPEAL CLAUSE

All bylaws, rules or parts of rules heretofore in force or inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

These Bylaws, as amended, were approved by a duly noticed and attended meeting of the County Committee on September 15, 2001.

Ronald A. DiNicola, Chair