I. Notice of Meetings and Elections

Many Michigan Democratic Party meetings and elections are often poorly publicized, making it difficult for members to participate. The Michigan Democratic Party does not regularly publish meeting information on its website, facebook page, or publicize information to its entire membership. This practice results in a party membership that is “left in the dark” on the operations of the party and its state central committee. Most members are unaware of what decisions are being made by State Central and when they are eligible to participate. This disenfranchisement must end.

Therefore, we propose the following amendment to the Rules and Bylaws of the Michigan Democratic Party:


The following paragraph shall be added to this section: "6. The Michigan Democratic Party shall be required to send information about all state central committee meetings, State conventions, and elections held by the state central committee to all members of the Michigan Democratic Party at least 30 days prior to the meeting or convention. Agendas for meetings must be made available at least 10 days prior to the meeting or convention."

II. Secret Ballot

Intimidation, threats of physical violence, job loss, blacklisting, and political retribution against rank-and-file party members are all common occurrences in the Democratic Party of Michigan. Given that current state and federal laws have been insufficient in addressing this problem, and that this behavior is unacceptable for a “Democratic” organization, the Democratic Party of Michigan must be proactive—it must develop rules that protect its membership and the right to vote one’s conscience.

The secret ballot is a historically proven way of protecting the right of individuals to choose their preferred candidate. Requiring secret ballot voting would provide voter protection for individuals to vote for who or what they believe is right and is in the best interests of the party.

Therefore, we propose the following amendment to the Rules and Bylaws of the Michigan Democratic Party:

AMENDMENT to Article 2, Section A. “Fundamental Principles,” Rule “9.”

“9. A secret ballot is required for all elections of the Democratic Party in Michigan, with the exception of elections only voted on by members of the State Central Committee, which shall be publicly recorded votes.”

III. Corporate Money Ban

Corporate money is a cancer of our political system. In order for the Democratic Party to be a party of working people and not the donor class, it must refuse to accept corporate donations. Corporate money corrupts the ideals of the party, perverts its mission, and weakens public confidence. A party funded by corporate dollars has lost the faith and confidence of its members, voters, and needs to change the way it is financed.

Therefore, we propose the following amendment to the Rules and Bylaws of the Michigan Democratic Party:

AMENDMENT to Article 2, “Policy,” Section A. “Fundamental Principles”

“11. Any organization of the Democratic Party in Michigan is prohibited from accepting contributions, both directly or indirectly, from for-profit corporations. Contributions from for-profit corporations directed through political action committees or non-profit groups are also prohibited. Contributions from political action groups or non-profit groups officially linked to for-profit corporations are also prohibited.

IV. Public Comment

Public comment is a standard practice for most public, governmental institutions and meetings. Yet many public meetings and elections of the Democratic Party do not allow for public comment, including Democratic Party elections. Party members need to be able to comment and ask questions of candidates running for office in the Democratic Party of Michigan to ensure openness, transparency, and accountability within the party.

Therefore, we propose the following amendment to the Rules and Bylaws of the Michigan Democratic Party:

AMENDMENT to Article 2, “Policy,” Section A. “Fundamental Principles”

“12. Every public meeting of every unit of the Democratic Party in Michigan must have a section for public comment. If an elections is being held, public comment must be held prior to the election with an opportunity for question and answer to and by the candidates seeking election.”

V. Eliminating the Power of Super-Delegates

The superdelegate system is undemocratic, corrupt, and should be abolished. In Michigan, we must strip super-delegates of their undemocratic power in the Democratic Party.

Therefore, we propose the following amendments to the Rules and Bylaws of the Michigan Democratic Party:

AMENDMENT to Article 2, “Policy,” Section A. “Fundamental Principles”
“13. All DNC super-delegates representing Michigan shall be required to cast their support so as to represent the results of the Democratic Presidential Primary in Michigan in direct proportion to the votes received by each candidate. Those who fail to adhere to this must immediately resign from their positions and offices within the Democratic Party in Michigan and become ineligible for any party positions in the future.”

AMENDMENT to Article 2, “Policy,” Section B. “Standard Rules of All Levels of the Party Structure”

“8. No rule shall be adopted by any unit of the Democratic Party that would require any person to cast a vote or be recorded as voting contrary to that person’s judgment, with the exception of Michigan’s DNC super-delegates, who shall be required to cast their support so as to represent the results of the Democratic Presidential Primary in Michigan in direct proportion to the votes received by each candidate.

VI. Lobbyist Ban

Contributions from lobbyists are a cancer of our political system. In order for the Democratic Party to be a party of working people and not the donor class, it must refuse to accept donations from lobbyists. President Obama instituted a ban on lobbyist contributions to the DNC in 2008. Debbie Wasserman Schultz lifted the ban on lobbyist donations to the DNC for the 2016 elections. Keith Ellison now supports banning lobbyist donations from the DNC again. We should extend this to the Michigan Democratic Party.

Therefore, we propose the following amendment to the Rules and Bylaws of the Michigan Democratic Party:

AMENDMENT to Article 2. “Policy,” Section A. “Fundamental Principles”

“14. Any current registered lobbyist at the state or federal level shall be prohibited from holding any party office or official position within the Democratic Party of Michigan. Elected leadership of the Michigan Democratic Party shall be prohibited from accepting or soliciting donations from currently registered lobbyists, or persons registered as lobbyists within the past two years, at the State or Federal level.”

VII. Same-Day Party Registration

The Democratic Party regularly champions same-day voter registration, yet fails to allow same-day party and voter registration in its own party! As a result, many Democrats are prevented from voting in party elections and at party meetings. This disenfranchisement was also seen in many of the “closed primaries” across the country during the 2016 Democratic primary. As Democrats, we should be as open as possible to maximize participation.

Therefore, we propose the following amendment to the Rules and Bylaws of the Michigan Democratic Party:

AMENDMENT to Article 4, “Michigan Democratic Party Membership”, Section B. “Voting Privileges”

“In order to vote at any Convention, Caucus or meeting of any unit of the Michigan Democratic Party at any level, a person may join the Michigan Democratic Party the day of that Convention, Caucus or meeting. A Party member must be a qualified and registered elector in order to vote on nominations for public office.”

VIII. Filing to Run for Party Office

The Democratic Party in Michigan does not require candidates for high-level party office to declare in advance. As a result, it is near impossible for rank-and-file members to vet and research candidates before the convention. This policy of nominations from the floor for high level offices promotes backroom deals and discourages open, democratic debate about the issues of the party and the merits of the candidates running. We can strengthen the party by requiring 30 day disclosure of candidates for high-level office within the party.

Therefore, we propose the following amendment to the Rules and Bylaws of the Michigan Democratic Party:

AMENDMENT to Article 4: “Michigan Democratic Party Membership”, Section C. “Holding Party Office”

The following paragraph shall be added to this section: “All party members seeking election to high level office within the Democratic Party in Michigan shall be required to file their candidacy with the Michigan Democratic Party at least 30 days in advance of the election. Requirements for filing shall include: Name, address, phone number, email address, and other contact information. The Michigan Democratic Party shall be required to promptly publish all information required for filing on its website. “High-level office” within the Democratic Party in Michigan shall be defined, for the purposes of this section, to include the following positions: DNC member, Michigan Democratic Party Chair, Michigan Democratic Party Treasurer, Michigan Democratic Party Secretary, and Chair and Vice-Chair for all congressional district organizations, and members and alternates of the State Central Committee.”

IX. Distance Participation and Absentee Voting

Many individuals are unable to participate in Democratic Party conventions in Michigan due to disabilities and long, sometimes even dangerous, travel conditions. In some years, traveling from the upper peninsula to the Democratic Party convention is life-threatening. Also, requiring individuals to be physically present for the early caucuses of the State Convention places a financial burden of lodging, transportation, etc. on those who live a great distance from the convention. This rule change will provide options for these individuals so all party members will be able to participate regardless of where they live or their personal financial circumstances.

Therefore, we propose the following amendment to the Rules and Bylaws of the Michigan Democratic Party:

AMENDMENT to Article 11: “State Conventions”

The following paragraph shall be added to this section: “Any individual with a disability that would prevent them from attending a State Convention or who is registered to vote more than 180 miles from the location of the convention shall be eligible to vote at the convention without being physically present. The Michigan Democratic Party shall develop reasonable procedures, which may include, but are not limited to, the use of absentee voting, proxy voting, or technology, to allow these individuals to participate from a distance. The Michigan Democratic Party shall develop reasonable procedures for individuals to request distance participation.”