BYLAWS OF

EVANSTON DEMS CLUB

A Democratic club serving the Evanston neighborhood of Cincinnati, Ohio

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be Evanston Dems Club, also known as the Evanston Democratic Club (hereafter, "the Club"), a Democratic club serving the Evanston neighborhood of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio.

ARTICLE II. MISSION, VALUES, AND GOALS

Section 1. Mission

The mission of the Club is to build lasting Democratic power in Evanston, the Educating Community, by showing up between elections, fighting for a progressive agenda residents can see and feel, and putting leadership in the hands of the people who live here.

Section 2. Values

The Club is progressive because Evanston's priorities are progressive: safe streets without over-policing, housing people can afford to stay in, schools that anchor the neighborhood, and a business district owned by the people who live here.

Section 3. Goals

In carrying out its mission, the Club shall pursue the following standing goals:

1. **Presence.** Be a visible, year-round Democratic presence in Evanston, including relational canvassing in months with no election, a club presence at Evanston Community Council meetings and neighborhood events, and community events that carry no political ask.
2. **Accountability.** Track the priorities Evanston has already named and report plainly to residents on what is moving and what is stalled, including housing stabilization, follow-through on the neighborhood's own Work Plan, and the schools and educational institutions that make Evanston the Educating Community.
3. **Safety.** Combat gun violence and crime in Evanston by treating safety as a neighborhood priority. Build a working relationship with Cincinnati Police and our District rooted in accountability and mutual respect, maintain a direct line between residents and the officers who patrol here, and support violence prevention and intervention programs that reach young people before harm happens.

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4. **Business District.** Build up Evanston's Business District as the neighborhood's front door by bringing visibility to local owners, holding Club events and meetings in and around the district, driving traffic to local businesses, and advocating for public investment and resident-owned storefronts.
5. **Leadership from Within.** Recruit and develop Evanston residents into real roles, including Precinct Executives, ward leadership, Club officers, committee chairs, and canvass captains, and connect with Evanston's schools, the university, and young adults and families so the next generation of leaders comes from Evanston.
6. **Electoral Power.** Turn presence and trust into votes by growing voter registration and turnout in Evanston's precincts, electing progressive Democrats who answer to this neighborhood, helping turn Ohio blue, and giving Evanston one coordinated voice beyond the neighborhood.

Section 4. Supporting Activities

In service of these goals, the Club shall also:

- Support and amplify the work of Evanston's elected Precinct Executives and Ward Chair, including voter registration, precinct-level organizing, and Election Day operations, by providing them a standing base of volunteers and neighborhood support;
- Register voters and help neighbors participate fully in local, state, and federal elections; and
- Build lasting community connection among Evanston Democrats that outlasts any single election cycle.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

Section 1. Relationship to the County Party

The Club is an independent Democratic club affiliated with the Hamilton County Democratic Party (HCDP), organized pursuant to the HCDP Constitution and Bylaws, which provide that each Cincinnati ward or neighborhood may organize its own Democratic club. The Club shall conduct its affairs, including its endorsement procedures, consistently with any rules promulgated by the HCDP County Executive Committee.

Section 2. Relationship to Precinct Executives and Ward Chair

The Club exists in part to support the elected Precinct Executives and Ward Chair serving Evanston's precincts. In recognition of this relationship, and consistent with how HCDP itself seats Ward Chairs as ex officio members of its County Executive Committee:

- Any Precinct Executive or Ward Chair whose precinct or ward includes any part of the Evanston neighborhood shall be an ex officio, non-voting member of the Club's Executive Board, with standing invitation to attend and speak at all Board and general meetings;
- The Club shall consult these officeholders when setting its organizing priorities and canvassing and phone-banking calendar, so that Club activity reinforces rather than duplicates official precinct and ward operations; and

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- Nothing in these Bylaws limits the independent authority of any Precinct Executive or Ward Chair under HCDP's Constitution and Bylaws, and nothing in HCDP's rules limits the Club's independent authority to organize, fundraise within applicable limits, and set its own internal governance under these Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility

Membership is open to any person who supports the Club's mission and either resides in, works in, or is otherwise connected to the Evanston neighborhood of Cincinnati, Ohio. The Club welcomes both registered Democrats and any neighbor who supports Democratic values and candidates.

Section 2. Dues

The Executive Board may recommend dues, subject to approval by a majority of members present at a regular meeting. Dues may be set on a pay-what-you-can basis with a suggested minimum. Inability to pay dues shall never be a barrier to participation or membership, and a member may request that dues be waived confidentially.

Section 3. Rights of Members

Members in good standing may attend and speak at all meetings, vote on all matters brought before the membership (including officer elections, endorsements, and bylaw amendments), and hold office.

Section 4. Resignation and Removal

A member may resign at any time by notifying any officer. A member may be removed for conduct substantially inconsistent with the Club's mission by a two-thirds vote of members present at a meeting where the removal was on the published agenda.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

The officers of the Club shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Together with any ex officio members under Article III, Section 2, these officers constitute the Executive Board.

Section 2. Duties

- Chair: presides at all meetings, serves as the Club's primary spokesperson, and coordinates with the county party and peer neighborhood clubs.
- Vice Chair: assists the Chair and presides in the Chair's absence.
- Secretary: keeps minutes of all meetings, maintains membership records, and handles official correspondence.

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- Treasurer: maintains the Club's financial accounts and EIN-registered bank account, reports on the Club's finances at each regular meeting, and ensures the Club's activity remains consistent with Article VIII.

Section 3. Election and Terms

Officers shall be elected by majority vote of members in good standing present at the Club's founding meeting and thereafter at a regular meeting held every two years. Officers serve two-year terms and may be re-elected without limit.

Section 4. Vacancies

A vacancy in any office shall be filled by majority vote of the remaining Executive Board until the next regular election.

Section 5. Removal

An officer may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote of members present at a meeting where the removal was on the published agenda, provided the officer receives at least 14 days' notice.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings

The Club shall hold regular meetings, ordinarily monthly, at a date, time, and location (or virtual or hybrid format) set by the Chair and communicated to members at least 7 days in advance.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Chair or by written petition of at least five members, with at least 5 days' notice.

Section 3. Quorum

A quorum for regular business shall be the members present at any duly noticed meeting. A quorum for votes on endorsements (Article VII) or bylaw amendments (Article X) shall be at least ten members in good standing.

Section 4. Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Club's proceedings in all cases not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII. ENDORSEMENTS

The Club may vote to endorse candidates for public office or positions on ballot issues. In weighing an endorsement, the membership shall consider whether the candidate or position advances the Club's mission and goals under Article II. An endorsement requires a two-thirds vote of members present and voting at a meeting where the endorsement question appeared on the published agenda and shall be exercised consistently with any rules of the HCDP County Executive Committee.

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ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES

Section 1. Fiscal Year

The Club's fiscal year shall run from January 1 through December 31.

Section 2. Accounts

The Treasurer shall maintain the Club's bank account, opened using the Club's federal Employer Identification Number, and shall keep accurate records of all income and expenditures.

Section 3. Authorization

Expenditures over an amount set by the Executive Board require the authorization of at least two officers.

Section 4. Political-Club Status

Unless and until the membership votes to register the Club as a formal political action committee, the Club shall keep less than $2,500 in its treasury at all times and limit its aggregate contributions to $1,000 or less per calendar year, consistent with Ohio Revised Code 3517.01(C)(8).

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

The Executive Board may act on routine matters between regular meetings. The Chair may establish standing or ad hoc committees as the Club's work requires, including committees or liaison roles aligned to the goals in Article II, such as Communications, Community Council Liaison, Safety, Business District, Events, and Canvassing. Committees are open to every member in good standing.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at any regular meeting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment was given to members at least 14 days in advance.

ARTICLE XI. DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Club, and after payment of all debts and obligations, any remaining funds shall be distributed to the Hamilton County Democratic Party or another organization consistent with the Club's mission, as determined by a vote of the membership.

ADOPTION

These Bylaws were adopted at the founding organizing meeting of Evanston Dems Club, held in Evanston, Cincinnati, Ohio, on _____, 2026.

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Elizabeth Blackburn, Founding Chair, Ward 3 Chair and Precinct Executive 3-D

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Secretary, Evanston Dems Club

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