

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF HAMILTON COUNTY

Ratified April 1, 2004

The Republican County Central Committee of Hamilton County, Ohio duly elected by the members of the Republican Party of Hamilton County, in accordance with the statutes of the State of Ohio, does hereby make, ordain and establish this Constitution of the Republican Party of Hamilton County.

ARTICLE I
PURPOSES; PLEDGE;
ORGANIZATION

Section 1: Purposes. The purposes of the Republican Party of Hamilton County shall be to assist in securing the most capable, honest, and forward-looking administration of the government of nation, state, county, township and municipalities and in that way and, in accordance with the principles of the Republican Party, to continually assist in advancing towards and achieving the common welfare and the benefits of liberty and justice for our nation, state, county, township, and municipalities and for our posterity.

Section 2: Pledge. The members of the Republican Party County Central Committee pledge themselves to support and vote for all Candidates endorsed by the Republican Party of Hamilton County, Ohio, at any election and to assist in achieving the purposes of the Republican Party of Hamilton County described in this Article.

Section 3: Governing Bodies. The Republican Party of Hamilton County shall consist of a Central Committee, an Executive Committee, and such sub-committees as the Central or Executive Committees shall from time to time establish.

ARTICLE II
CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Section 1: Composition of the Central Committee. The Republican Party Central Committee of Hamilton County ("Central Committee") shall consist of one member from each election precinct in Hamilton County. Each member of the Central Committee shall be a member of the Republican Party and a resident of the precinct which he or she represents, elected by direct vote of the members of the Republican Party of the member's precinct in accordance with the statutes of the State of Ohio. Members of the Central Committee shall serve for four-year terms (effective Primary 2006), or until a successor is elected and qualified in accordance with the statutes of the State of Ohio. In case of vacancies caused by death, resignation, failure to elect, or removal from the precinct from which such member was chosen, the Central Committee shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term by a majority vote of its members.

Section 2: Central Committee Organizing Meeting. Not earlier than six nor later than fifteen days after the certification of the election of members of the Central Committee, the members shall meet and organize. Notices giving the place and time of such meeting shall be sent to each member-elect by the retiring Secretary of the Central Committee, and a copy of the notice shall be posted in the office of the Board of Elections at least five days prior to any such meeting. The meeting shall be called to order by the retiring Chairperson or Secretary, or, if there is no such officer, or if such officer is absent, then by a member of such Committee designated by the Republican members of the Board of Elections. A temporary Chairperson and Secretary shall be chosen and the Central Committee shall proceed to organize by the election of its officers, committees, and Executive Committee, all of whom shall serve at the pleasure of a majority of all the members of the Central Committee, or until their successors are elected and qualified in accordance with these Rules and the laws of the State of Ohio. The Central Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies in such offices and in the Executive Committee. All votes of the Central Committee shall be by standing vote.

Section 3: Meetings. Following the Organizing Meeting, the Central Committee shall meet as necessary to carry out special business brought before it by the Chairperson or by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Written notice of such meetings shall be sent by ordinary U.S. Mail to the members of the Committee at least five days in advance of the day of the meeting. A quorum at any meeting of the Central Committee shall consist of 40% of the Committee membership.

Section 4: Management and Delegation of Responsibilities. Between meetings of the Central Committee, the Executive Committee shall, in conjunction with the Chairperson of the Central Committee have and exercise all powers of the Central Committee, including but not limited to: managing the affairs of the Republican Party in Hamilton County, Ohio and its day-to-day operations; directing the general policy of the Party organization; directing and conducting campaign activities; designating a Finance Committee, which shall be its principal fund-raising adjunct; designating such additional political and fund-raising auxiliaries and such candidate supporting entities as it may from time to time choose; promoting the best interests of the Party; filling all vacancies in the Central Committee; and performing all duties by law or custom required of it. In all its activities, and in reports thereon to the Federal Election Commission or the Secretary of State, the Executive Committee shall identify itself as the Hamilton County Republican Party.

Section 5: Local Central and Executive Committees. Inasmuch as they may apply, the provisions of this Constitution for the County organization shall be effective as to local village, ward, city, or township organizations. The Chairperson of the county Central Committee may, from time to time, establish rules for the organization and conduct of local Central or Executive Committees which shall be effective as to all such committees organized hereunder within the county.

ARTICLE III CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFICER

Section 1: Chairperson. The Chairperson of the Central Committee shall maintain and direct the operations of the Party and its headquarters in cooperation with the Executive Committee. The headquarters shall be open during ordinary business hours to Republicans and other citizens who have business with it. The Chairperson shall perform all other duties prescribed by statute or usually exercised by the Chairperson, not inconsistent with this Constitution. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chairperson, the Secretary shall call a meeting of the Central Committee for the purpose of electing a new Chairperson. A vacancy will be deemed to occur in the office of the Chairperson when the Chairperson resigns or is removed, or is unable to fulfill his/her duties because of disability or death.

Section 2: Vice Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in the event of the Chairperson's absence, death, removal from office, resignation, removal from the State of Ohio, or inability to act. The Vice Chairperson shall continue to act until the return of the Chairperson or, if required, until a new Chairperson is elected and qualified.

Section 3: Secretary. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings, copies of which shall be maintained on file at Party Headquarters, and shall keep and be the custodian of the permanent books and records of the Committee except financial records.

Section 4: Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive all funds belonging to the Central Committee, keep proper books of account on all moneys received and paid out as to all accounts. The Treasurer shall be fully accountable to the Executive Committee for all acts and doings as Treasurer.

Section 5: Compensation. No officer shall at any time, use his/her official position for private or personal financial gain; provided, however, that the Chairperson of the Central Committee may receive a stipend as set by the Executive Committee or its designee, and may accept reasonable fees or honoraria as well as reimbursement for expenses for speeches, lectures, seminar or panel participation, or for published writings and recordings.

ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1: Composition of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members, each of whom shall pledge themselves to vote for all candidates endorsed by the Republican Party of Hamilton County and to assist in achieving the purposes of the Republican Party of Hamilton County described in Article I above:

(a) The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Central Committee and the Hamilton County members of the State Central Committee selected from the State Senatorial Districts of Ohio, shall be members ex-officio, unless otherwise chosen or elected as provided in the following provisions of this section.

(b) The duly elected members of the Central Committee from each Ward in the City of Cincinnati shall choose one member of the Central Committee from each such ward.

(c) The duly elected members of the Central Committee from each village, city (other than the City of Cincinnati) and from each township outside of a city shall choose one or more members of the Central Committee in proportion to the village's, city's or township's relation to the population of the average Ward for the City of Cincinnati. The number of members to which a village, city or township is entitled shall be calculated as follows, based upon the next preceding census. First, the mean average population of the Wards in the City of Cincinnati will be calculated. Second, the population of each village, city or township will be divided by the mean average Cincinnati Ward population. Each village, city or township shall be entitled to choose one member for each resulting unit or fraction thereof of average Cincinnati Ward population.

(d) In order to assist in providing representation of all segments of the Republican electorate in Hamilton County, not fewer than fifty nor more than seventy-five members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at large by the Central Committee after having been nominated by a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will consist of seven members of the Central Committee appointed by the outgoing Chairperson and confirmed by majority vote of the members present at the first meeting of the Central Committee.

Section 2: Certification of Election. The Chairperson of the Central Committee shall have the power to call meetings of the Central Committee for the purpose of the election of members of the Executive Committee, and the Chairperson of the Central Committee shall preside thereat if he so desires. The selection of members of the Executive Committee by each village, city, ward and township as hereinabove provided shall be certified to the Secretary of the Central Committee in writing, signed by a majority of the members of each such group.

Section 3: Organizing Meeting of Executive Committee. Within two weeks after the election of the members-at-large by the Central Committee, the Chairperson of the out-going Executive Committee shall call a meeting of the new Executive Committee. The in-coming Executive Committee shall thereupon elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Any member of the Executive Committee shall be eligible for election. The Secretary and the Treasurer of the Central Committee shall be ex-officio Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, of the Executive Committee.

HAMILTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

RULES FOR ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT

OF

LOCAL CENTRAL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

ADOPTED **MAY 28, 2019** BY CHAIRMAN ALEX M. TRIANTAFILOU

The Constitution of the Republican Party of Hamilton County, (ratified on April 1, 2004 and filed with the Ohio Secretary of State) in Article II, Section 5, provides:

“Local Central and Executive Committees. Inasmuch as they may apply, the provisions of this Constitution for the County organization shall be effective as to local village, ward, city, or township organizations. The Chairperson of the county Central Committee may, from time to time, establish rules for the organization and conduct of local Central or Executive Committees which shall be effective as to all such committees organized hereunder within the county. (emphasis added)”

Therefore, by the power vested in the Chairperson by the Republican Party Constitution, I hereby establish the following rules for the organization and conduct of every local central committee organization in Hamilton County.

The purpose of these rules and the focus of this organization shall be to empower the Precinct Executives (PEs) across the County. The Precinct Executives are elected by citizens to manage the affairs of the Republican Party and everything in these rules is designed to empower them to make decisions. Ward Chairs should take great care to empower the vote of the PEs and to make a process whereby their voice is heard in the management of county affairs.

I. Selection of Ward Chairs

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 1(c), the duly elected members of the Central Committee (the Precinct Executives or PEs) from each village, city and from each township shall select members of the Central Committee to serve as Ward Chairs. The number of Ward Chairs is calculated using the formula set forth in the Republican Party Constitution.

(A) Each current Ward Chair shall send by ordinary U.S. mail notice of an organizing meeting with at least five (5) days notice to the currently elected/appointed members of the Central Committee (PEs) for each ward.

(B) A time and place should be established for the meeting that falls inside the ward boundaries for that municipality. Ideally, the time and place for such a meeting shall be in a neutral location convenient to PEs.

(C) Pursuant to the Party Constitution, a standing vote shall be taken for Ward Chair in each community.

(D) A majority vote of the currently elected (or appointed) PEs must be attained to be a Ward Chair. If there is a tie for Ward Chair(s), that tie shall be broken by the Chairperson of the Hamilton County Republican Party.

(E) A Ward Chair should only be selected if he or she requests to be a Ward Chair and no person shall be selected by the PEs who is not interested in such a position.

(F) At the discretion of the Ward Chair, a PE may send in their choice for Ward Chair via email as long as the Ward Chair is satisfied that the email is authentic and reflects the true position of the PE. No personal attendance by the PE at the Ward Chair meeting is required, but the Ward Chair has discretion in how to conduct such a meeting. If a PE fails to meaningfully participate or refuses to cast a vote for Ward Chair, these rules shall give wide latitude to the currently active PEs to make the choice for Ward Chair consistent with the rest of these rules.

(G) The elected Ward Chair shall then mail or email the results of that Ward Chair election to the Executive Director and the Office Manager of the Hamilton County Republican Party indicating the results of the Ward Chair election. To be valid, this email or mail communication must include the names of the PEs who voted in the Ward Chair selection process.

The duly elected Ward Chair(s) will become members of the Hamilton County Republican Party Executive Committee and shall oversee the political activity of the GOP within their Ward.

II. Endorsement of Candidates for Local Office

The power to provide the Republican Party endorsements vests with the Hamilton County Republican Party—not with each municipality within the County.

Pursuant to Article II, Section 4 of the Party Constitution and state law, the Hamilton County Republican Party only has that power. The Hamilton County Republican Party is duly organized under Ohio Revised Code §3517.02.

However, it has become the practice of the Hamilton County Republican Party to honor the endorsement processes of the various municipalities to allow for autonomy in each suburban locale and to empower local Precinct Executives. That process will be codified in these rules today.

(A) For each municipal area, a meeting shall be called by the Ward Chair(s) consistent with Section I of these rules. That meeting shall provide written notice to members that a "recommendation for Party endorsement" will be made and invite all members of the Central Committee in that area to participate.

(B) The Ward Chair shall conduct a fair, open meeting to discuss a recommendation for endorsements. The meeting shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order and in accordance with the Constitution of the Hamilton County Republican Party.

(C) The Ward Chair, in consultation with the PEs, shall seek to invite those running for local office who may be interested in interviewing for the Party endorsement. The Ward Chair should consult the following groups to amass a list of possible interviewees: the Board of Elections for candidates who may have "pulled petitions" or filed; local Republican Club organization, the PEs, and other active and interested Republicans. The focus should be on a process that is open to all, yet mindful of the importance of only endorsing candidates who share our Republican philosophy.

(D) Only candidates who have expressed a desire to receive our endorsement should be considered. Any candidate wishing to receive the endorsement of the Republican Party must convey their interest in clear terms to the Ward Chair who shall, in good faith, relay that information to the PEs. The Republican Party should not endorse a candidate not seeking or valuing the endorsement of our Party.

(E) Criteria for endorsement. In evaluating who should receive the Party endorsement, the PEs make that decision using whatever criteria they deem appropriate consistent with their duty of loyalty to the GOP. However, this is a suggested list of criteria:

- (1) Loyalty to the Party Constitution
- (2) Conservative values consistent with the local, state, and national platform of the Republican party
- (3) Activism within the Party
- (4) Proven ability to successfully campaign
- (5) Fundraising ability
- (6) Any criteria the PEs choose to utilize

(F) Each candidate wishing to receive the endorsement shall have a chance to speak. The Ward Chair shall run the meeting and assure fair treatment to all seeking the endorsement.

(G) A candidate must not be present to receive the endorsement, but it is highly encouraged that they attend and meet the PEs and Ward Chairs. Candidates seeking the endorsement can submit materials in support of their candidacy and can have a person speak in their stead at the discretion of the Ward Chair. The focus should be on full transparency and openness.

(H) It is highly encouraged that PEs attend the meeting, listen to the candidates, and vote for the recommendation for endorsement. However, as extenuating circumstances sometimes exist, a PE may express their vote for endorsement to the Ward Chair(s) via email or other written communication. That communication must be made prior to the Ward Chair submitting their recommendation for endorsement to Headquarters pursuant to § (J) of these rules.

(I) Upon a tie vote for the endorsement, no endorsement will be made. A majority vote of the members of the Central Committee of each municipality must vote to issue a "recommendation for Party endorsement." There is no tie-breaking procedure, but the Executive Committee of the Hamilton County Republican Party ultimately makes the decision for endorsement and may or may not act on endorsements in the municipalities.

(J) The elected Ward Chair(s) shall then mail or email the results of the endorsement recommendation to the Executive Director and the Office Manager of the Hamilton County Republican Party notifying Headquarters about the results of the endorsement recommendation process. To be valid, this email or mail communication must include the names of the PEs who voted in the process. There is no form required.

(K) Thereafter, the Hamilton County Republican Party Executive Committee will meet to review the recommendations and to officially endorse the candidates from the municipalities pursuant to law. The Chairperson of the Committee will strongly recommend to the Party Executive Committee that the endorsement process of each municipality be honored.

In the case of municipal endorsements for candidates running in multiple municipal districts (i.e. state representative, board of education), the recommendations of the municipalities will be considered—but not binding as the Hamilton County Republican Party ultimately makes endorsements. We should attempt to avoid this kind of inter-party and inter-municipality dispute whenever possible. The authority to endorse lies with the Hamilton County Republican Party.

III. The Oath

Once an endorsement is made by the Hamilton County Republican Party, that endorsed candidate will appear on the "pink sample ballot" and other official Party material. The "pink sample ballot" is to be passed out in each precinct by the Precinct Executives. The endorsed candidate will receive the full support of the Hamilton County Republican Party.

An important reminder that Article I, Section 2 of the Hamilton County Republican Party Constitution reads as follows:

"The members of the Republican Party County Central Committee pledge themselves to support and vote for all Candidates endorsed by the Republican Party of Hamilton County, Ohio, at any election and to assist in achieving the purposes of the Republican Party of Hamilton County described in this Article."

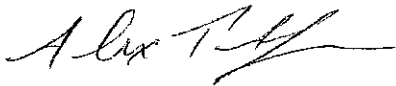
Although this pledge has occasionally caused some consternation, it is important that it be followed so as to strengthen our endorsement and to hold candidates accountable to our principles. Once endorsed, our Party should unite to support those candidates. In fact, it is the pledge of the Central Committee members who swore a petition to show allegiance to our great Party.

IV. Conclusion

The purpose of these rules is to codify longstanding Party practices and to set a uniform set of rules for each municipality. The rules are adopted pursuant to the Party Constitution and are designed to empower each municipal district to select Ward Chairs and to make endorsements in their own municipal races. It has been the practice of the Hamilton County Republican Party to not endorse in primaries and that is unaffected by this set of rules. These rules apply to the selection of Ward Chairs and to municipal Central Committee members who may choose to recommend an endorsement in each municipal race. These rules do not apply to the City of Cincinnati or to countywide races as these are handled pursuant to the Party's Constitution governing the county organization.

Finally, these rules are designed to empower the elected officials who manage the affairs of the Hamilton County Republican Party: The Precinct Executives. The voice of the PEs is to be given wide consideration in the interpretation and implementation of these rules.

Thank you for your service to the Hamilton County Republican Party.



Alex M. Triantafilou
Chairman

May 28, 2019

Date

Section 4: Duties of Executive Committee; Standing Committees. After the election of the Executive Committee, except as otherwise directed by the Central Committee, the Executive Committee shall have and exercise in cooperation with the Chairperson of the Central Committee all powers of the Republican Party of Hamilton County in the intervals between meetings of the Central Committee. It shall select a Committee on Committees, which shall appoint the following sub-committees, subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee:

Committee on Finance;

Committee on Nominations and Candidate Development;

Committee on Ward, Township, and Precinct Organization; and such other committees as the Executive Committee may, from time to time, authorize. The Chairperson of the Central Committee shall be ex-officio Chairperson of the Committee on Ward, Township and Precinct Organization. The person named first by the Committee on Committees in its appointment of the other committees shall be the Chairperson of such committee.

Section 5: Staff. The Executive Committee shall select an appropriate staff to perform such duties as may be assigned to it and authorize compensation for such staff.

Section 6: Meetings. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee or the Chairperson of the Central Committee, or on their refusal or failure to act, on written demand by any twenty-five (25) members of the Executive Committee. No less than three days written notice, addressed to all members of such committee and deposited in the United States mail, shall be given of each such meeting. A quorum at any meeting shall consist of one-third of the committee membership. All votes of the Executive Committee shall be by standing vote.

Section 7: Executive Committee Vacancies. The Executive Committee shall have power to temporarily fill vacancies among its members elected at large, but at the next meeting of the Central Committee the name of any such selection shall be submitted to the Central Committee for ratification. Vacancies among the members elected from the Wards, Townships and Cities shall be filled by the members of the Central Committee or by their successors in office, who originally elected the member who has ceased to be a member of the Executive Committee.

Section 8: Vacancies of Candidates and Officeholders. The Executive Committee is authorized to fill any vacancy created by the death or withdrawal prior to a general election of a person nominated as a Republican candidate, and to fill any vacancy created by the death, prior to a primary election, of a person for nomination as the Republican candidate, and to select a person as the Republican Party candidate for an unexpired term upon the death or resignation of the incumbent officeholder, all pursuant to Sections 3513.30 and 3513.31 of the Ohio Revised Code, as the same may hereafter be amended or recodified.

ARTICLE V POLICY COMMITTEE

Section 1: Organization. The Chairperson of the Central Committee shall, within 30 days after the Central Committee organizing meeting, appoint a Policy Committee. The Policy Committee shall consist of not less than 15 nor more than 35 members and shall meet not later than 45 days following the date of the certification of the results of each Central Committee Primary Election at a suitable time and place designated by the Chairperson of the Central Committee, and at such other times as the Chairperson may call for meetings. At this meeting, the Policy Committee shall choose a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to serve until the next Central Committee Primary Election or until their successors are elected by the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee shall have the authority to provide for such other offices as it deems appropriate and to fill vacancies thereon. Vacancies in the Policy Committee itself shall be filled by appointment by the Chairperson of the Central Committee.

Section 2: Meetings. Meetings of the Policy Committee shall be called by its Chairperson or by the Chairperson of the Central or Executive Committees. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Policy Committee or in his/her absence the Vice Chairperson shall preside.

Section 3: Duties. Upon the request of (i) the Central Committee or its Chairperson, or (ii) the Executive Committee or its Chairperson, or (iii) the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Policy Committee jointly, the Policy Committee shall consider and offer its advice and assistance on matters submitted to it. The Chairperson of the Policy Committee may from time to time appoint sub-committees to consider in detail matters under consideration by the full Policy Committee.

ARTICLE VI RULES OF ORDER

The proceedings of all meetings shall be in accordance with the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENT

This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Central Committee by the vote of two-thirds of all of the members of the Committee, or it may be amended at any meeting of the Committee by a vote of a majority of the members present provided that written notice of the proposed change shall have been given in the notice of the meeting. A copy of this constitution and any amendments thereto shall be filed with the Secretary of State within thirty days after adoption.