

**CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS OF THE
GARRETT COUNTY REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**
(Amended January 2022)

Article I - ORGANIZATION AND NAME

This organization shall be known as The Garrett County Republican State Central Committee, hereinafter referred to as “Committee”.

Article II – OBJECTIVES AND SUPERIOR AUTHORITY

- 2.1. Objective.** The objectives of the Committee shall be to promote the interests and welfare of the Republican Party in Garrett County, the State of Maryland, and the United States of America, and to act as a component and subordinate part of the Republican State Central Committee of Maryland.
- 2.2. Superior Authority.**
- a.** This document is subject to the rules of the Republican National Committee and may be subject to the laws of the United States and the State of Maryland.
 - b.** The rules contained in the current edition of *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Committee in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and Bylaws and any special rules of order the Party may adopt.

Article III – MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1. Members:** The committee shall be comprised of nine (9) persons elected in the state-wide primary election held in gubernatorial election years.
- 3.2. Election:** On the regular primary day, in years where a gubernatorial election is held hereafter, the qualified voters of Garret County, Maryland, shall elect the nine members of the Committee, as herein defined, shall be the party Central Committee for Garret County, Maryland as defined in the Maryland Code, and in the Constitution of the Republican Party of the State of Maryland.
- 3.3. Qualifications:** A member of the Committee shall be a bona fide resident and voter of Garrett County, Maryland and shall be a registered Republican.

3.4. Term: Members of the committee, elected herein above described, shall serve for a term extending until after the next ensuing general election in a year when a gubernatorial election is to be held, until such time as the newly elected Central Committee conduct its first organizational meeting, as herein after provided.

3.5. Removal:

- a. **By County Central Committee.** A member of a County Central Committee who is convicted of a felony, commits misconduct as defined in subsection (3), or who fails to appear at three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of that committee during a period in excess of 60 days may be removed with ten (10) days prior written notice by return receipt mail by a two-thirds vote of the County Central Committee members present at the next regularly scheduled meeting, after which the member shall be notified in writing by return receipt mail of this action within three (3) days. However, failure to notify such removed member shall not invalidate the vote to remove the member.
- b. **By State Executive Committee.** A member of a County Central Committee who is convicted of a felony, commits misconduct as defined in subsection (3), or who fails to appear either in person or by proxy at three consecutive conventions of the State Central Committee may be removed with ten (10) days prior written notice by return receipt mail by a two-thirds vote of those present at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Executive Committee (described in ARTICLE VI of this document), after which the member shall be notified in writing by return receipt mail of this action within seven (7) days. However, failure to notify such removed member shall not invalidate the vote to remove the member.
- c. **Misconduct.** The following actions constitute misconduct:
 - i. Any act of physical violence or sexual harassment as defined by state or federal law against a committee member or an elected official
 - ii. A credible threat of violence against a committee member or an elected official, meaning a knowing and willful statement or course of conduct that does not serve a legitimate purpose and that causes a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or for the safety of the person's immediate family
 - iii. A conviction for a crime of moral turpitude, such as perjury, as defined by the Courts of the State of Maryland
 - iv. Status as a vexatious litigant as determined by any state or federal court
 - v. Embezzling funds from the County or State Central Committee and Candidate Committees
 - vi. Fraud, malicious defamation, intentional tortious acts, or felonious acts as determined by Courts of the State of Maryland in the conduct of committee business

- vii. A knowing and willful serious violation of the Bylaws of the Maryland Republican Party or a Committee member's respective county Committee
- d. **Double Jeopardy.** A felony conviction or any of the enumerated acts constituting misconduct in subsection (3) may provide the necessary basis for removal regardless of the date of conviction or the time at which the misconduct occurred and regardless of whether the same felony conviction or misconduct was the basis for a prior removal, except where the specific felony or misconduct in question was the basis for a prior removal proceeding that failed to achieve the two-thirds vote necessary for removal.
- e. **Appeals.**
 - i. An individual who has been removed by the County Central Committee may file an appeal to the state party By-Laws Committee, provided that the appeal is made in writing and to the Secretary of the Maryland Republican Party and By-Laws Committee within thirty (30) days of the individual receiving notice of the removal. The By-Laws Committee may re-instate the member by a two-thirds vote of the committee members and may apply such due process procedures that they believe are in the interest of justice. The By-Laws Committee must make a final determination on the appeal within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the appeal.
 - ii. If a vote taken by a County Central Committee pursuant to subsection (1) fails to achieve a two-thirds vote, a simple majority of the members of that County Central Committee may request to the State Executive Committee in writing with signatures of those supporting the request to investigate and decide on the matter. It is the discretion of the State Executive Committee to hear the request. The State Executive Committee must make a final determination on the request by the end of next meeting of the State Executive Committee or at the subsequent meeting if the request of the majority of the County Central Committee is received within one (1) week of the date of the next meeting of the State Executive Committee.

3.6. Vacancies: When any vacancy in the membership shall occur by reason of death, resignation, incapacity, or removal, the Chair of the Committee shall declare a vacancy to exist and notify the membership of the Committee at the meeting when such a vacancy arises. Within sixty (60) days after the Chair shall have notified the Committee of such vacancy, the members of the Committee by majority vote, elect a qualified person to fill the unexpired term of the vacant membership.

Article IV - ORGANIZATION MEETING

- 4.1. Call to assemble:** Within four days after the gubernatorial general election, the newly elected Chair member of the Committee who received the most votes of all person elected as members of the Committee in the most recent gubernatorial primary election shall upon at least seven days written notice to the newly elected members of the Committee, issue a call to assemble for the purpose of electing officers and conducting such other business that may properly be brought before the Committee. The newly elected member who issues the call to assemble shall act as the temporary Chair of the organizational meeting, until the Chair is elected. In the event that such newly elected Chair member fails to call such a meeting within four days after the gubernatorial election, the newly elected members who is first in the alphabetical listing of the newly elected members of the Committee, with five days thereafter, shall initiate the call to initiate the call to assemble and act as the temporary Chair of the organizational meeting. The responsibility to issue the call to assemble and to serve as the temporary Chair shall progress down the alphabetical listing of the newly elected Committee members each five days thereafter until the call to assemble is issued.

Article V - OFFICERS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 5.1.** The officers of the Committee shall be comprised of a County Chair, County Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Additional officers may be selected by the Committee as may be required to meet and fulfill the objectives of the Committee.
- 5.2.** The officers shall be elected by a majority of the members present at any one of the following times: at the Committee's organization meeting, when a vacancy may exist, or when the Committee designates an additional official position.

Article VI - DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 6.1.** The duties of the officers and Committee members shall be those prescribed by and defined in the Maryland Code, and in the Constitution of the Republican Party of the State of Maryland.
- 6.2. Duties.** It shall be the duty of this Committee to provide for the holding of meetings to supervise registration of voters, to ensure the election of Republican candidates and generally to do all such things as term to strengthen and enhance the Republican Party in Garrett County.
- 6.3. Appointments.**
- a. **By office holders:** All Republican office holders shall submit their candidates for appointment to the Committee, at least 30 days prior to the appointment, when

possible, for the purpose of review and comment by the Committee. All review and comment by the Committee shall be advisory only

- b. **By the Committee:** The names of all candidates for appointment by the Committee shall be submitted to the members of the Committee at least 30 days prior to the meeting when the appointment or recommendation will be considered.
- c. **Associate Membership:** Shall be open to individuals who have affirmatively indicated their support for the Republican Party and upon the approval of the standing Committee by three fourths vote by membership cast. Associate members shall receive such privileges as the Committee may specify.

Article VII – RULES OF PROCEDURE

- 7.1. The most recent revised Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the procedure of the meetings of the Committee so far as said rules may be consistent with Maryland Law, the Republican State Central Committee of Maryland and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Committee.
- 7.2. Committee members who are not present by excused absence or know they are having extended absences, shall be allowed to vote by written proxy for Committee meetings. An excused absence shall be determined by Committee chair and may only be reversed by four members of the Committee.
- 7.3. Committee members who are not present by excused absence or know they are having extended absences, shall be allowed to vote via e-mail on proposed issues. E-mail transmission must be made prior to the meeting being called to order and submitted to the following committee members, Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.
- 7.4. E-mail voting shall be permitted when issues and or decisions need to be made when a meeting of the committee can not be held. A vote of three fourths of voting membership cast shall be necessary to approve an issue.

Article VIII – LIMITATIONS

- 8.1. **Primaries.** The Committee shall not participate nor give the impression of participating in primary elections, whether they be partisan or non-partisan. However, if a Committee member is a candidate for elected office, then and in that event, the individual Committee member may actively participate in their own campaign for elected office.

Article IX - INTEGRITY OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 9.1. Persons elected as members of the Committee, shall not participate in or be party to, any procedure or activity which in their conscience they feel is not in the best interest of the Republican Party.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS TO THIS DOCUMENT

- 10.1. **Amending Body.** The Committee is the only body which may amend this document, and the said committee cannot delegate this power.
- 10.2. **Eligibility to Propose Amendments.** Any member or member-elect of the Committee may propose an amendment to this document verbally or by submitting it in writing at a regularly scheduled meeting of said committee.
- 10.3. The Committee shall review any proposed amendment of this document. Any proposed amendment approved by the Committee shall be submitted in writing at the next regularly scheduled meeting *or* a date as agreed upon by all members of said committee.
- 10.4. **Vote Necessary to Amend** - A three fourths majority of voting membership cast shall be necessary to amend this document.

Revised, Amended and Adopted by the Garrett County Republican Central Committee this

10th day of January, 2022.

Jim Guedel
CHAIR

Barbara Shilstone
VICE-CHAIR

Fredrick Pas
SECRETARY

Becky Heath
TREASURER

Jeff Conner
MEMBER

Grass Ketcher
MEMBER

Thomas P. Shoaken
MEMBER

Lisa M. Herman
MEMBER

William B. Boff
MEMBER