

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE  
REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF  
HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND**

(Adopted December 11, 1996; Last amended December 12, 2020)

**ARTICLE I –NAME**

The name of this organization shall be “The Republican Central Committee of Howard County, Maryland” (herein referred to as the “Committee or Howard County GOP”).

**ARTICLE II PREAMBLE AND PURPOSES**

SECTION 1. Preamble: We are the one party that speaks to all Americans. We welcome all to our deliberations in the firm belief that the principles embodied in this party will prove to be as compelling and persuasive as they are vital and enduring. We do not fear disagreement and we do not demand conformity; we believe that the best ideas will prevail in the end. Our party embodies a uniquely American spirit. It is the spirit of independent minds and the conviction that open and honest debate is essential to the freedom we enjoy as Americans. This party is a testament to that freedom and stands as our promise to future generations that we will do whatever it takes to preserve it. It is grounded on our heartfelt belief that our principles, our policies, and our vision will lead our American family to a horizon of prosperity and liberty mankind has only begun to explore.

SECTION 2. Purposes: The purposes of the Committee are to be the governing body of and the official spokesman for the Republican Party in Howard County, Maryland; to cooperate with the Republican State Central Committee for the State of Maryland and with the Republican National Committee; to establish and operate an effective Republican political organization for Howard County; to seek to register new voters as Republicans and to encourage those already registered otherwise to change their registration to the Republican Party; to secure the election of all duly nominated Republican candidates; to fill vacancies in, and in nominations for, public office; to periodically submit to the Governor the names of proposed members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Howard County; to coordinate and assist Republican activities in Howard County; to engage in fund raising to support the activities enumerated above; to promote the principles, objectives, and platform of the Party; and to engage in such other activities as are reasonably necessary and proper to accomplish the foregoing purposes.

## **ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP: The membership of the Committee shall be regulated in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Maryland Code Annotated, Election Law, Title 4, and Article IV of the Constitution of the Republican Party of the State of Maryland. Membership of the Committee shall be set at nine (9) members, elected at large.

SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS: Each member of the Committee shall be a bona fide resident of, and a registered voter in Howard County. Each member of this Committee shall have declared such member's party affiliation to be "Republican" when registering to vote in partisan elections under Maryland law and under the law of any and all local jurisdictions and shall maintain such Republican registration throughout such member's term of office.

SECTION 3. TERM OF OFFICE: The term of office of members of the Committee shall be as provided in the Maryland Code Annotated, Election Law, Title 4.

SECTION 4. RESIGNATIONS: Any member of the Committee may resign for any reason at any time provided that such member provides written notification to the Chair of the Committee of such member's intent to resign and the effective date of such resignation. In the event that no effective date is specified in the written notification, such resignation shall be effective upon receipt of the written notification by the Chair. In the event any member of the Central Committee files to run for an elective office, other than Central Committee or Delegate to the RNC, that member must first tender his/her resignation to the Chair of the Committee.

SECTION 5. CONDUCT: As the duly elected or appointed representatives of all Republicans in Howard County, a certain code of conduct must be followed by all members of the Committee. Violation of the Code of Conduct by a member may result in censure under Article III. Section 7 or removal under Article III. Section 8. It is a violation of the Code of Conduct for a member of the Committee to:

- 1) Publicly cause harm to the reputation and good name of the Republican Party, as determined by the Committee; or
- 2) Publicly endorse or sponsor any candidate of a political party other than the Republican in connection with any partisan election or primary in which there is a Republican candidate.

SECTION 6. ATTENDANCE: As the duly elected/appointed representatives of all Republicans in Howard County and the body in charge of party activities, regular attendance to regularly scheduled meetings and state conventions is requested and is an obligation. If attendance is not possible, notification to the Chair is required at least one day in advance of the meeting unless extenuating circumstances exist, in which case the member shall provide notice as soon as reasonably possible. The Chair has the discretion to determine whether an absence is excused. The Chair shall notify the Committee whether the absence is excused. After being notified of the Chair's decision, the Committee may overrule the Chair's decision by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast. Three (3) unexcused absences by a member within any twelve

(12) consecutive months or nine (9) unexcused absences during a member's term of office is cause for removal. If one more unexcused absence would result in a member of the Committee being subject to removal, the Chair shall notify the member in writing that another unexcused absence may result in the removal of the member.

SECTION 7. CENSURE: Any violation of the Committee bylaws may result in a motion to censure. Any member may make this motion at any meeting of the Central Committee in which a quorum is present. Debate on the motion to censure and the vote to censure shall take place in a closed session of the Committee no less than seven (7) days after the motion to censure was made. The person who is the subject of the motion to censure shall be notified in writing within 48 hours of the motion to censure and the date of the closed session meeting. Committee members will have the opportunity to present arguments for and against censure before the vote. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast is required for a member to be censured.

SECTION 8. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE: If a member is subject to removal under Article III. Sections 5 (Code of Conduct) or 6 (Attendance), upon the request of at least two members of the Committee, the Chair shall place the removal of the member on the agenda for a meeting of the Committee. This shall be done by making and seconding a motion at a Committee meeting or by two or more members submitting a written request to the Chair. The Chair shall provide all members of the Committee at least seven (7) calendar days advance written notification of the intent to remove the accused before the Committee may vote on the removal. The removal shall be adjudicated at the next meeting of the Committee after the one week notice period has expired; however, the accused may waive, in writing, the right to the one week notice period. At the discretion of the Chair, the vote to remove may take place at a regularly scheduled Committee meeting or a special meeting. Debate on removal and the vote to remove shall take place in a closed session of the Committee. Committee members will have the opportunity to present arguments for and against removal before the vote. The vote shall take place by secret ballot. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast is required for removal, which shall take effect immediately. If removed from office, the member must surrender all property owned by the Committee in his/her possession. If a member is removed, the Chair must notify the removed member in writing within 48 hours of the vote, but failure to so notify such removed member shall not invalidate the vote to remove. If the Chair is the subject of the motion to remove, then the Vice Chair will oversee the proceedings and has the rights and responsibilities given the Chair under this section.

SECTION 9. VACANCIES: A vacancy shall exist upon the death, removal, or resignation of a member or upon the occurrence of any event provided for in Article 33, Section 11-2 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Chair shall immediately give notice to the other members of the Committee of a vacancy. Any vacancy on the Committee shall be filled within ninety (90) days after the vacancy occurs by the remaining members of the Committee at a duly called meeting of the Committee. When the Committee considers the matter of filling a vacancy, nominations may be made by any member, and election shall be by a majority of the Committee. If a vacancy has not been filled within the ninety (90) day period commencing on the date of the vacancy, the vacancy may be filled by the Chair. A person elected to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remaining term of the member who created the vacancy.

## **ARTICLE IV - ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

SECTION 1. CALL TO ASSEMBLE: Within fourteen days after the gubernatorial general election, the newly elected member of the Committee who received the most votes of all persons elected as members of the Committee in the most recent gubernatorial primary election shall upon at least seven (7) 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 member fails to call such a meeting within fourteen days after the gubernatorial election, the newly elected member who is first in the alphabetical listing of the newly elected members of the Committee, within five (5) days thereafter, shall 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 (5) days thereafter until the call to assemble is issued.

SECTION 2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The first order of business of the newly elected members at the organizational meeting shall be the election of officers.

## **ARTICLE V – OFFICERS**

SECTION 1. OFFICERS: The officers of the Committee shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be members of the Committee. The Secretary and Treasurer shall not be required to be members of the Committee but must be registered Republican voters in Howard County at the time of their election and throughout their term of office. All officers shall be elected by the Committee.

SECTION 2. CHAIR: The Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Committee; shall call regular and special meetings of the Committee; shall preside at all meetings of the Committee; shall have general supervision over the affairs, activities and any employees of the Committee; shall submit an annual proposed budget to the Committee at the first duly called meeting of the year; shall supervise the expenditures of Committee funds; shall make all committee appointments unless herein or by law otherwise provided; shall oversee the maintenance of all appropriate current and past Committee records; shall be the official spokesman for the Committee; and shall perform such other duties as are required by law and as usually pertain to the office of the Chairman.

SECTION 3. VICE CHAIR: The Vice Chair shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the Chair and perform such other duties as are required by law or as may be prescribed by the Chair and are incident to this office, and in the event a vacancy occurs in the office of the Chair, the

Vice Chair shall exercise all of the powers and perform all of the duties of the Chair until such vacancy has been filled by the Committee.

Section 4. SECRETARY: The Secretary shall keep complete and accurate minutes (including attendance records) of all meetings of the Committee; shall be responsible for official notices and reports as required by law or by this Constitution and ByLaws; and shall perform such other duties as the Chair shall assign and are incident to this office.

SECTION 5. TREASURER: The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt and, at the direction of the Chair, the disbursement of all monies by and for the Committee; shall maintain the accounts for the Committee and shall maintain complete and accurate records of all receipts and disbursements; shall submit an annual estimated budget to the Chair prior to December 31 of each year; shall render periodic reports of income and expenditures as required by the Chair or the Committee; and shall, upon request, account to and transfer to the successor Treasurer any funds belonging to the Committee at the end of his/her term.

SECTION 6. RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERS: Each member shall be responsible for attendance at monthly meetings and must abide by the attendance and conduct clauses of Article III. Members should take an active role in planning and coordinating events for the benefit of the Party including fundraising for the Central Committee and General Election activities for Republican candidates. Members shall also attend regularly scheduled state conventions or be responsible for providing a proxy for that convention in their absence.

SECTION 7. GENERAL COUNSEL: A General Counsel may be appointed by the Chair with the advice and consent of the Committee to serve as legal adviser and Parliamentarian to the Committee and to perform such other duties as are incident to this office. The General Counsel need not be a member of the Committee.

SECTION 8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Election of officers shall be held at the organizational meeting provided for in Article IV hereof and thereafter annually at the first duly called meeting of the Committee following the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Officers shall be elected by majority vote. Each officer shall serve for a term of office lasting one year, or until such officer's successor is elected, whichever is later to occur. Officers may stand for reelection.

SECTION 9. NOTICE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Within fifteen (15) days following the election of any officer(s), the Chair shall notify the State Administrative Board of Election Laws and Republican State Central Committee for the State of Maryland of the names and addresses of the persons elected as officers.

SECTION 10 REMOVAL OF OFFICERS: At any regular or special meeting of the Committee, a vote may be taken to remove any officer from office, provided that at least twenty (20) days written notice has been given to all officers and to all members of the Committee of such intention. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast shall be required to effect removal.

SECTION 11. FILLING OF VACANCIES: A vacancy shall exist upon the death, removal, or resignation of an officer. The Chair shall immediately give written notice to the other members of the Committee of a vacancy. If an officer is removed, the vacancy shall be filled by majority vote taken at the same meeting. Except as otherwise provided in the preceding sentence, if a vacancy occurs, an election shall be held to fill the vacancy for the remaining term at the first duly called meeting of the Committee which is held not less than seven (7) days after written notice of the vacancy is given to the other members of the Committee. The Vice Chair shall act as Chair until a new Chair is elected. Election shall be by majority vote.

## **ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS**

SECTION 1. REGULAR MEETINGS: Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held monthly with at least ten (10) meetings per year. Such meetings shall be held at a location in Howard County, which is convenient to the members of the Committee or by audio or video conference as authorized in Article VI, Section 7 of this Constitution and Bylaws.

SECTION 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS: Special Meetings of the Committee may be called by the Chair and shall be called upon a written petition to the Chair by a majority of the members of the Committee. Such meetings shall be held at a location in Howard County, which is convenient to the members of the Committee or by audio or video conference as authorized in Article VI, Section 7 of this Constitution and Bylaws.

SECTION 3. NOTICE: The Chair shall give at least seven (7) days written notice of any special meeting of the Committee. The notice shall state the time, place and, insofar as practical, the agenda to the meeting. The notice shall be provided to all officers and members of the Committee.

SECTION 4. PROXIES: Proxies shall not be permitted at any meeting of the Committee.

SECTION 5. QUORUM: Representation from a majority of the then serving members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum of the Committee at any meeting.

SECTION 6. RULES OF PROCEDURE: When not inconsistent with the provisions of this instrument or any other rules of procedure adopted by the Committee, Robert's Rules of Order (most recent edition) shall govern all meetings of the Committee.

SECTION 7. MEETINGS HELD BY AUDIO OR VIDEO CONFERENCE: At the discretion of the Chair, or upon the written request of a majority of the Committee, the Committee may conduct any duly called meeting by audio or video conference. The Chair shall give at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice to all members and officers of the Committee that the duly called meeting will be held by audio or video conference. Committee meetings held by audio or video conference shall be subject to all rules adopted by the Committee to govern them, which may include any reasonable limitations on, and requirements for, Committee members' participation. Any rules adopted by the Committee under this section shall supersede any conflicting rules in the parliamentary authority, but may not otherwise conflict with or alter any rule or decision of the

Committee. An anonymous vote conducted through an Internet service designated by the Chair shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the bylaws or rules that a vote be conducted by ballot. Sufficient audit logs shall be maintained by the Committee Secretary.

## **ARTICLE VII MISCELLANEOUS**

SECTION 1. NOTICES: To the extent that written notice is required by this Constitution and Bylaws, the requirement will be satisfied when (i) received by the person to whom directed; (ii) deposited in the mail, postage prepaid, to be delivered by first-class mail, provided that such mailed notice is addressed to the person at the most recent address provided to the Committee by such person; or (iii) sent via e-mail to the most recent e-mail address provided to the Committee by such person and delivery of the e-mail is confirmed or acknowledged. Any other notice provided for in this Constitution and Bylaws will be satisfied by giving oral, telephonic, or written notice.

SECTION 2. FILLING VACANCIES IN NOMINATIONS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE: The Committee shall have such power as is conferred upon it by the law of Maryland to fill vacancies in nominations for public office. Whenever under the law of Maryland the Committee is to act in filling such a vacancy, a meeting to fill the vacancy may be called by the Chair (or, in the event that the office of the Chair is vacant, by the Vice Chair serving as Chair) upon seventy-two hours notice.

### SECTION 3. ENDORSEMENTS IN PRIMARIES:

- A: The Committee shall not endorse nor shall it support financially or in any other manner, any candidate, group of candidates, or "Ticket" prior to a Republican Primary Election, unless unanimously voted and agreed upon by all members of the Committee.
- B: Individual Members are free to publicly endorse the Republican Candidate of their choice prior to the set primary date.
- C: If the State Executive Committee asks for a recommendation on the implementation of "Rule 11", the Chair must consult with the Committee prior to the State Executive Committee vote.

SECTION 4. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS OF HOWARD COUNTY: Biennially, upon the request of the Governor, the Committee shall, by majority vote, designate at least four eligible persons affiliated with the Republican Party for each position on the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Howard County, which the Election Code requires to be filled by Republicans. The Committee shall not so designate any person who does not first agree to attend annual meetings of the Committee. The Committee shall invite the Republican members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Howard County to attend meetings of the Committee not less frequently than annually.

SECTION 5. STRATEGIC PLAN: The Committee shall use the strategic plan presented annually as a non-binding guideline for detailed party organization.

## **ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

This Constitution and Bylaws shall take effect and be enforced when adopted by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at a duly called meeting of the Committee and provided further that a copy of this Constitution and Bylaws was sent to each member with written notice of its proposed adoption at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at any meeting by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members, at a duly called meeting and provided further that notice of the proposed amendment was sent to each member of the Committee at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. The Chair shall file with the State Administrative Board of Election Laws and with the Republican State Central Committee for the State of Maryland a copy of this Constitution and Bylaws within thirty (30) days after its adoption and shall also file in the same locations a copy of any amendment to this Constitution and Bylaws within thirty (30) days after adoption.