

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

(Adopted July 20, 2020)

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the organization shall be “The Republican Central Committee of Somerset County, Maryland” herein referred to as the “committee”).

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of the committee shall be to:

- A. Be the governing body of and the official spokesman for the Republican Party in Somerset County.
- B. Cooperate with the Republican State Central Committee for the State of Maryland and with the Republican National Committee
- C. Establish and operate an effective Republican political organization for Somerset County
- D. Seek to register new voters as Republicans and to encourage those already registered otherwise to change their registration to the Republican Party
- E. Secure the election of all duly nominated Republican candidates
- F. Fill vacancies in, and in nominations for public office
- G. Coordinate and assist Republican activities in Somerset County
- H. Engage in fund raising to support the activities enumerated above
- I. Promote the principles, objectives and platform of the Republican Party
- J. Seek honest and responsible government founded on the worth and dignity of every person
- K. 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 on accordance with the appropriate sections of TITLE 4-202 of the Code of Maryland and Article IV of the Constitution of the Republican Party of the State of Maryland. Membership of the Committee shall be nine (9) members, elected at large.

SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS. Each member of the Committee shall be a bona fide resident of and registered voter in Somerset 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 provided in TITLE 4-202 of the COMAR.

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.

SECTION 5. REMOVALS. A member of the Committee who is convicted of a felony, commits misconduct as defined in the State Bylaws (Article 4.2 e. (3), or who fails to appear at three consecutive Regular Meetings may be removed. This member must be given notice of removal seven days prior by notification by return receipt mail before membership vote. Removal must be approved by a two-thirds vote of County Central Committee members present and voting at the next meeting.

A member who has been removed in accordance with this section shall be notified within three days after the vote by return receipt mail, but failure to so notify the removed member of such shall not invalidate the vote.

SECTION 6. VACANCIES. A vacancy shall exist upon the death, removal or resignation of a member or upon the occurrence of any event provided for in TITLE 4-202. 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 eighty (80) after the vacancy occurs by the Committee at a duly called meeting of the Committee. If a vacancy has not been filled within the eighty (80) 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.

Section 7. Excused Absences. It shall be within the discretion of the County Chair to determine that an absence be excused. Members who desire an excused absence shall address the County Chair in writing (not via text or SMS messaging) prior to date in question. Failure to make such a request, will result in the absence being unexcused. If there is an emergency, as determined by the County Chair, preventing the member from making a timely request, an excused absence may be considered.

ARTICLE IV - ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

SECTION 1. CALL TO ASSEMBLE. A Committee Organizational Meeting shall be held after every gubernatorial election in a location in the County convenient to the Members of the Committee.

- A. No later than four days following the gubernatorial election the current Chair shall provide seven days written notice to the newly-elected Committee Members, calling them to assemble for the purpose of taking the Party Oath of Office, electing officers and conducting such other business as may be required.
- B. The current Chair will administer the Oath of Office to the newly-elected Committee.
- C. The current Chair will then conduct an election for a new Chair. The current Chair, if re-elected to the Committee, may stand for election to be re-elected Chair.
- D. The new Chair will conduct the election of the remaining officers and conduct such business as may be required.
- E. Should the Chair fail to call a meeting within four days of the Gubernatorial election, the Committee Member who received the most votes in the Gubernatorial primary shall act as Temporary Chair and will call a meeting, administer the Oath of Office and conduct the election of a Chair.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

SECTION 1. OFFICERS. The officers of the Committee shall be a Chair, First Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The Chair and the First Vice-Chair shall be members of the Committee. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall not be required to be members of the Committee but must be registered Republican voters in Somerset 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; may submit an annual proposed budget to the Committee at the first duly called meeting of the year; shall supervise the expenditures of the 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. FIRST VICE-CHAIR. The First Vice Chair shall preside over 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 First 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; and shall perform other such duties as the Chair shall assign 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 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 of 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 term.

SECTION 6. GENERAL COUNSEL. A General Counsel may be appointed by the Chair with the advice and consent of the Committee to serve as a legal advisor and Parliamentarian to the Committee and to perform such other duties as are incident to the office. The general Counsel need not be a member of the Committee.

SECTION 7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Election of Officers shall be held at the Organizational meeting provided for in Article IV hereof. Officers shall be elected by majority vote. Each Officer shall serve a term lasting four years, or until such officer's successor is elected, whichever is later to occur. Officers may stand for re-election.

SECTION 8. NOTICE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Within fifteen days following the election of any Officers, the Chair shall notify the State Administrative Board of Election Laws and the Republican State Central Committee of the names and addresses of the persons elected as Officers.

SECTION 9. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS. At any regular meeting of the Committee, a vote may be taken to remove any Officer from office, provided that at least twenty days written notice has been given to all officers and all members of the Committee of such intention. A two thirds majority vote shall be required to effect removal.

SECTION 10. FILLING OF VACANCIES. A vacancy shall exist upon the death, removal, 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 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 days after written notice of the vacancy is given to the other members of the Committee. The highest ranking Vice-Chair shall act as Chair until a new Chair is elected. Election shall be majority vote.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

SECTION 1. REGULAR MEETINGS. Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held on no less than quarterly.

SECTION 1a. A Regular Meeting is a meeting called by the County Chair for which at least 21 days notice has been given.

SECTION 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special meetings of the Committee may be called by the Chair and shall be called upon written petition to the Chair by a majority of the members of the Committee. Such meetings shall be held at a location in Somerset County which is convenient to the members of the Committee.

SECTION 3. NOTICE. The Chair shall give at least seven days notice of any special meeting of the Committee. The notice shall state the time, place, and in so far as practical, the agenda for the meeting.

SECTION 4. PROXIES. Proxies shall 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 rules of procedure adopted by this Committee, *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern all meetings.

SECTION 7. EXECUTIVE SESSION. In order to conduct confidential business, a majority vote of the Committee to enter into Executive Session shall immediately restrict those

present to the Members of the Committee, supplemented by such other individuals as the Committee determines to be appropriate.

ARTICLE VII - STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The County Chairman may establish *ad hoc* committees as the Chairman deems necessary or proper to advise the Chairman in conducting the affairs of the Committee.
2. Committee members need not be members of the County Central Committee.

ARTICLE VIII - MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 1. NOTICE. Any notice provided for in this Constitution and Bylaws shall be deemed to have been given when received by the person to whom directed or, alternately, when deposited in the mail, postage prepaid, to be delivered by regular first-class mail, provided that and such mailed notice shall be addressed to a person at the most recent address provided to the Committee by such person. Any required written notice (except the written notice provided for in **Article IV Section 1**) may be waived provided that a written waiver of any such notice is executed by not less than four fifths of the Members of the Committee.

SECTION 2. VACANCIES IN NOMINATIONS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE. The Committee shall have such power as is conferred upon it by the law of Maryland 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. The Committee shall not endorse nor shall it support it financially or in any other manner, any candidate, group of candidates, or "Ticket" over any other candidate, group of candidates or "Ticket" prior to a Primary election.

SECTION 4. CONFLICT. To the extent of this Constitution and Bylaws may conflict with the State Republican Central Committee and Bylaws, the State Constitution and Bylaws shall govern.

Section 5. Duties of Members. It shall be the duty of all members:

1. To communicate regularly with other members and officers.
2. To respond properly to RSVP's phone messages, texts, emails, etc
3. To actively participate in events, activities, fund raising, meetings, etc

4. To function as a group following majority consensus. Private, individual agendas are not permitted.

Failure to do any of the above can result in the County Chair's recommendation to the Somerset County Central Committee that a member has failed to meet the Duties of a Member and ask that appropriate action take place. Appropriate action can be; censure, a form of reprimand, removal or other action. Appropriate action requires two-thirds approval of committee members present and voting at the next Somerset County Central Committee meeting. Written notice of intent to take action against a member shall be given to such member and all other members of the Committee at least seven days prior to the meeting at which the vote shall be taken. The appropriate action shall be enacted by a vote of two-thirds of the County Central Committee members present and voting at the next regular meeting, after which the member shall be notified in writing by return receipt mail of this action within three days. However, failure to notify such removed member shall not invalidate the vote to remove the member.

SECTION 6. COMPLAINT/RESOLUTION PROTOCOL

Members who are dissatisfied with the actions and /or policies of the Committee (state and/or county), officers or other individual members for any reason and are seeking resolution should:

1. Follow the "chain of command" in the following order: the Somerset County Central Committee Chair, then the Somerset County Central Committee members, and then the MD GOP Chair.
2. Notification of third or outside parties prior to allowing the previous section to rectify issues is not permitted.
3. Any statements or actions to the media, press or on social media concerning the above, prior to allowing to rectify issues is not permitted.


Failure to follow Article VIII, Section 6. can result in the County Chair's recommendation to the Somerset County Central Committee that a member has failed to comply and ask that appropriate action take place. Appropriate action can be; censure, a form of reprimand, removal or other action. Appropriate action requires two-thirds approval of committee members present and voting at the next Somerset County Central Committee meeting. Written notice of intent to take action against a member shall be given to such member and all other members of the Committee at least seven days prior to the meeting at which the vote shall be taken. The appropriate action shall be enacted by a vote of two-thirds vote of the County Central Committee members present at the next regular meeting, after

which the member shall be notified in writing by return receipt mail of this action within three days. However, failure to so notify such removed member shall not invalidate the vote to remove the member.

**ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION
AND BYLAWS**

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

Adopted July 20, 2020

Signed: 

Somerset County Republican Central Committee Chairman