

## RULES OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

DECLARATION: The express purpose of these rules is to provide for the free and unhampered right of the individual electors of Benton County to participate in the nomination of their choice.

To the achievement of the above end, the rules herein set out shall apply to and govern the Republican Party of Benton County, Arkansas, and the various subdivisions therein, insofar as the same are not in conflict with the Rules of the Republican Party of Arkansas, or state law governing or regulating political parties and elections in Arkansas.

### **Section 1—Party Authority**

The final county authority in all Republican Party matters and party government, not specifically provided for under the laws of the State of Arkansas, shall rest in the biennial County Convention, which shall delegate such interim authority to the County Committee and the County Executive Committee.

### **Section 2—Party Organization**

The organization of the Republican Party of Benton County, Arkansas shall consist of the following bodies:

- a. County Committee
- b. Executive Committee
- c. Standing Committees:
  1. Finance Committee
  2. Program Committee
  3. Publicity Committee
  4. Rules Committee
  5. Appointee Recommendations Committee
  6. Events Committee
  7. Membership Committee
- d. Ad hoc Committees:
  1. Nominating Committee
  2. Platform Committee
  3. Candidate Recruitment Committee
  4. Such other committees as the County Committee, or the County Chairman, shall from time to time direct.

### **Section 3—County Committee**

a. The County Committee shall be organized immediately following the Convention of the Republican Party of Benton County. Officers of the Republican Party of Benton County shall be elected in January of odd numbered years.

b. Any elected official who by virtue of his or her office has a vote on the District Committee, may not serve as a County Committee officer, if such service would result in the loss of a vote on the District Committee.

c. The Chairman of the County Committee may not serve in any partisan publicly elected office whose term of office extends beyond the calendar year in which the Chairman is elected by the County Committee. The Chairman of the County Committee may not be a candidate for any partisan publicly elected office.

d. One-fourth (1/4) of the membership of the County Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

#### **Section 4-Executive Committee**

a. The Executive Committee shall consist of:

1. Chairman of the County Committee
2. First Vice-Chairman of the County Committee
3. Second Vice-Chairman of the County Committee (who shall be the opposite sex of that of the First Vice-Chairman)
4. Third Vice-Chairman of the County Committee (who shall serve as The liaison to the allied Republican organizations)
5. Secretary of the County Committee
6. Treasurer of the County Committee
7. State Committeeman
8. State Committeewoman
9. District Committeeman
10. District Committeewoman
11. Chairmen of all Standing Committees
12. The immediate past Chairman of the County Committee
13. District Committee Chairman, who is also a member of the County Committee
14. Any State Committee officer, or member of the State Executive Committee, who is also a member of the County Committee
15. Republican members of the County Election Commission.

b. Non-voting members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the County Committee, and shall consist of:

1. Assistant Secretary of the County Committee
2. Assistant Treasurer of the County Committee

c. In the event of the absence of the Secretary or Treasurer, the Assistant Secretary or Assistant Treasurer, respectively, shall be entitled to vote on the Executive Committee.

d. The Executive Committee shall meet at such times as the County Committee Chairman or a majority of the members thereof may deem appropriate or necessary.

e. At least one-half (1/2) of the members of the Executive Committee shall be required to constitute a quorum.

f. Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee shall be recorded by the Secretary of the Committee.

g. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the plans and

operations of the County Committee; shall evaluate and recruit qualified Republican candidates for the County, Township and City offices; and shall perform such other duties as the County Committee may delegate.

#### **Section 5—Finance Committee**

a. The Finance Committee shall consist of:

1. A Chairman appointed by the County Chairman and approved by the County Committee.
2. The Treasurer of the County Committee.
3. The Chairman of the County Committee.
4. Two (2) members of the County Committee appointed by the County Chairman and approved by the County Committee.

b. The Finance Committee shall develop a budget for the activities and duties of the County Committee as are prescribed in the Rules of the Republican Party of Arkansas.

c. Proposed expenditures, unless budgeted or recommended by the Finance Committee, shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a meeting of the County Committee.

d. The budget for the following calendar year shall be presented at the November meeting for approval by the County Committee.

#### **Section 6—Program Committee**

The Program Committee shall consist of:

- a. The First Vice Chairman of the County Committee, who shall serve as Chairman of the Program Committee.
- b. The County Chairman.
- c. One (1) additional member of the County Committee appointed by the County Chairman and approved by the County Committee.

#### **Section 7—Publicity Committee**

a. The Publicity Committee shall consist of:

1. A Chairman appointed by the County Chairman and approved by the County Committee.
2. Two (2) members of the County Committee appointed by the County Chairman and approved by the County Committee.

b. The functions shall include the planning and coordination of a continuous public relations and communications program for the Republican Party within the County and shall perform such other duties as the County Chairman or County Committee may delegate.

#### **Section 8—Rules Committee**

a. The Rules Committee shall consist of:

1. A Chairman appointed by the County Chairman and approved by the County Committee.
2. Two (2) members of the County Committee appointed by the County Chairman and approved by the County Committee.

b. The duties of this Committee are to review and make recommendations for rules changes to both the County and State Rules.

#### **Section 9—Appointee Recommendations Committee**

a. The Appointee Recommendations Committee shall consist of:

1. The Second Vice Chairman of the County Committee, who shall serve as Chairman of the Appointee Recommendations Committee.
2. Four (4) members of the County Committee appointed by the County Chairman and approved by the County Committee.

b. The duties of the Appointee Recommendations Committee are to review and make recommendations for appointive positions to the State Appointee Recommendations Committee.

c. The Appointee Recommendations Committee shall be active during any period in which a Republican holds the office of Governor of Arkansas or President of the United States.

#### **Section 10—Events Committee**

The Events Committee shall consist of:

- a. A Chairman appointed by the County Chairman and approved by the County Committee.
- b. Individual events chairmen as appointed by the Events Chairman.
- c. All County Committee members.

#### **Section 11—Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee shall consist of:

- a. A Chairman appointed by the County Chairman and approved by the County Committee.
- b. Two County Committee members selected by the County Chairman and approved by the County Committee.
- c. The Membership Committee Chairman may request the appointment of additional members. Additional members shall be approved by the County Committee.

#### **Section 12—Appointments to Standing Committees**

The County Chairman shall appoint the chairmen and members of **all Standing** Committees, within forty-five (45) days following the election of County Committee Officers.

#### **Section 13—Vacancies**

Vacancy in Office-- By a majority vote of the County Executive Committee, an investigation may be initiated concerning the fulfillment of the duties of the office by an officeholder elected at the County Convention or by the County Committee.

The Executive Committee will set a time and place for the officeholder to meet with the Executive Committee members to be heard concerning the performance of the duties of the office. Based on the discussion in this meeting, the Executive Committee, by a majority vote, may grant a temporary leave-of-absence or may forward a declaration of a vacancy in office to the County Committee for an up or down vote at the next regular committee meeting.

If the officeholder cannot be contacted by using information on the County Committee filing form or other such updated information by phone, text message, or email; or there is no response within 10 days a certified letter will be sent. After the number of days for correct delivery has expired and the letter is either returned with forwarding address or delivered as addressed, the Executive Committee may proceed with available information concerning the performance of duties of the office and make appropriate recommendations to the County Committee.

- a. Vacancies existing on the County Committee shall be filled according to the Rules of the Republican Party of Arkansas.
- b. A vacancy shall be deemed to exist, or have occurred, in the position of a member of the Committee upon the happening of any one (1) of the following:
  1. Whenever such member tenders his resignation in writing either to the Secretary or the Chairman of the Committee and the County Committee duly accepts same.
  2. Whenever such member tenders his resignation orally before the County Committee and such Committee accepts same.
  3. Death of such member or permanent change of residence from the political subdivision of the position held.
  3. Whenever no one has filed for the position in the Primary Election.
  4. Whenever such member is removed in accordance with the Rules of the Republican Party of Arkansas or County Committee.
- c. Nominations to fill vacancies on the County Committee may be made at any regular meeting, and must be voted on at the next regular County Committee meeting, at which the nominee is present, unless the Committee takes action to defer until a later meeting.
- d. Nominees must be presented in person to the members of the County Committee at the time of nomination, and shall pay a fee equal to the filing fee.
- e. Nominees must affirm their concurrence with the objectives and principles as stated in the "Preamble" to the Rules of the Republican Party of Arkansas.
- f. Members of the County Committee who hold elected partisan township, district, countywide or statewide office shall serve as ex-officio

members and shall not be counted in determining the number required for a quorum at any meeting of the County Committee.

#### **Section 14--Nominations for Elective Position**

a. No later than forty-five (45) days prior to the election of officers, the County Chairman shall appoint a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of:

1. A Chairman appointed by the County Chairman and approved by the County Committee.
2. Two (2) members of the County Committee appointed by the County Chairman and approved by the County Committee.

b. Nominations for elective positions of the County Committee shall be made in writing and submitted to the Secretary thirty (30) days prior to the election, and shall include a signed statement by the nominee that he or she will accept the responsibilities of the position for which nominated. The Secretary shall forward the nominations to the Nominating Committee.

c. The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for evaluating and recommending candidates for elective positions of the County Committee. The name of any nominee not recommended by the Nominating Committee shall not be withdrawn from the ballot, unless withdrawn by the nominee.

d. Notice of all nominations made in accordance with Paragraph (b) above must be transmitted by electronic mail or regular mail by the Secretary to all members-elect of the County Committee no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the election.

e. Persons nominated for elective positions under the above procedure, who fail to be elected to that position, may be nominated from the floor for any remaining position to be filled.

f. In the event no person files for a position, the Nominating Committee shall submit nominations for Officers.

#### **Section 15--Audit**

The financial books of the County Committee shall be closed at the end of December of even numbered years and audited within forty five (45) days following the election of County Committee Officers. The audit shall be performed by a competent person approved by the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 16--Tenure in Office**

Tenure in office for all officers of the County Committee and others elected by the Committee shall be limited to two (2) consecutive two (2) year terms.

#### **Section 17--Amendments**

a. These rules may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present at the County Convention, provided that the proposed changes are stated in the call of the Convention.

b. These rules may also be amended by a nine-tenths (9/10) vote of the members present at any regular meeting of the County Committee, provided that at least ten (10) days written notice shall be given on any proposed changes to the rules.

c. Any rule may be suspended during any meeting of the County Committee by a nine-tenths (9/10) vote of the members present.

Amended: April 2015 and November 2015

Previously amended June 2004, July 2002, June 2002, June 1998, June 1984, March 2007, February 2012, 2015, November 2017

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