

7/31/2014

**Constitution and Bylaws
of the Hunterdon County Republican Committee
Voted and approved at the April 8, 2010 Endorsement Meeting**

Article I
Election of Members

Members of the County Committee shall be elected on Primary Day on the Tuesday following the first Monday in June in even-numbered years. County Committee members shall be elected for two year terms.

Article II
Meetings

The County Committee shall hold at least two meetings each year. One shall be the annual reorganization meeting on the Tuesday following Primary Election Day; the other shall be a candidate presentation meeting which shall be held no later than two (2) days before the deadline to submit to the County Clerk the Hunterdon County Republican Committee candidate endorsements prior to the final filing date for the Primary Election.. Additional meetings shall be held for specific purposes such as indicated in Article VII and VIII.

Article III
Officers

- (1) The County Chair shall be elected for a two year term at the reorganization meeting held in even numbered years. There shall be two elected Vice Chairs, also elected for two year terms at the reorganization meeting held in even numbered years. These two elected Vice Chairs shall be called the First Vice Chair and the Second Vice Chair. One of the Vice Chairs shall be the opposite gender of the County Chair.
- (2) The County Chair does not have to be a member of the County Committee; The First Vice Chair and the Second Vice Chair shall be members of the County Committee.
- (3) The election for the office of the County Chair, First Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair shall be held in that order. To simplify the voting process, all the candidates for these offices can agree before voting begins to be presented as slates of officers, with all candidates of a slate elected with the respective winning candidate for County Chair. If there is a challenge to any office, the office will be voted on separately and the non-challenged officers will be considered elected by a motion from the floor to do so. A secret ballot shall be held in a contested election for these offices.
- (4) No County, State or Federal elected official may be a candidate or elected an officer or serve on the Advisory Executive Committee. This avoids conflicts of interest or agendas.

(5) If there are three or more candidates for a single office of the County Committee or slates of candidates for all offices and no candidate or slate of candidates receives over fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast, the candidate or slate of candidates receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped from succeeding balloting until one candidate or slate of candidates receives more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast.

6) Any vacancy in the office of County Chair shall be filled at a meeting of the County Committee, which shall be held within ninety (90) days of the creation of the vacancy. The First Vice Chair shall serve as Acting Chair and have all the authority of the office until the vacancy is filled. Any vacancy in the office of First Vice Chair or Second Vice Chair may be filled temporarily by the County Chair until the next annual reorganization meeting of the County Committee.

(7) The First Vice Chair shall have the authority to act in the temporary absence of the County Chair. The Second Vice Chair shall have the authority to act in the temporary absence of the County Chair and First Vice Chair.

(8) The County Chair shall have the authority to appoint up to eight (8) Regional Vice Chairs, who shall be members of the County Committee but, not elected officers of the County Committee. These Regional Vice Chairs shall serve for one year terms beginning at the annual reorganization meeting. The County Chair shall appoint the Regional Vice Chairs from a pool of interested members submitted by the chairs of the several municipal committees and no two Regional Vice Chairs shall be from the same municipality.

(9) The Secretary and Treasurer of the County Committee shall be elected by the County Committee for one year terms at the annual reorganization meeting held on the Tuesday following Primary Election Day. A secret ballot shall be held in a contested election for these offices. These officers shall be members of the County Committee. Any vacancy in these offices shall be filled temporarily by the County Chair until the next annual reorganization meeting of the County Committee. The County Chair shall have the authority to appoint other officers, such as Counsel to the County Committee and Parliamentarian to the County Committee, as the County Chair shall deem necessary.

Article IV

Executive Advisory Committee

(1) There shall be an Executive Advisory Committee of the County Committee consisting of the five (5) officers elected pursuant to Article III above, the Regional Vice Chairs appointed by the County Chair pursuant to Article III (8) above, and such other members as appointed by the County Chair. The Executive Advisory Committee shall have a minimum of fifteen (15) and a maximum of eighteen (18) members.

(2) The Executive Advisory Committee shall assist the County Chair in executing the policies and programs of the County Committee and shall meet at the call of the County Chair or at the call of a majority of its members. They will review candidates for County

and above offices and make recommendations to the County Committee members. The vote may be taken at a meeting or, under special circumstances as determined by a majority of the Executive Advisory Committee, a vote may be taken by mail, email or fax.

3) The Chair or the Executive Advisory Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee of five (5) members of the County Committee by April 1st of each year for the purpose of nominating candidates for the officer positions required to be filled at the annual reorganization meeting. No more than three (3) members of the Nominating Committee shall be members of the Executive Advisory Committee.

(4) The Executive Advisory Committee may make decisions that are necessary before an unexpected deadline imposed by a third party having standing to do so, which is less than seven (7) calendar days prior to the required deadline.

Article V **Endorsements**

(1) The County Committee may endorse candidates for the Primary Election. However, no funds of the County Committee shall be expended in the selection or nomination of a candidate or slate of candidates or on behalf of such candidates in a Primary Election. No County Committee funds shall be expended for the candidacy of a person running for an office of this County Committee.

Article VI **Quorum**

(1) A quorum of the County Committee shall consist of twenty five percent (25%) of the number of County Committee members, whether or not all positions on the County Committee have been filled. If, for example, 228 County Committee members exist, 57 members of the County Committee would constitute a quorum. A quorum shall be necessary for the annual reorganization meeting and any meeting at which a candidate for office is endorsed. At any meeting at which a change in these Bylaws is made the quorum shall be fifty percent (50%) of the number of County Committee members. The Committee shall be able to take action on these and other subjects by a majority vote of those members of the County Committee voting at any meeting at which an appropriate quorum has been established.

Article VII **Regular and Special Meetings**

(1) Regular and Special meetings of the County Committee shall be called by the Chair with at least seven (7) days written notice, which notice shall be deemed to be served when postmarked at the United States Post Office. Special meetings of the County

Committee shall be called by the County Chair upon the petition of at least twenty five (25%) percent of the members of the County Committee and must be held no fewer than fifteen (15) days and no more than sixty (60) days of delivery of the petition to the County Chair. All such petitions must be solicited only by members of the Committee and must be certified by another member of the County Committee to that effect.

(2) There shall be no voting by proxy at meetings of the Committee and no use of "unit rule" by delegations from any municipalities.

Article VIII **Amendments**

(1) Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed at a regular or special meeting of the County Committee by a County Committee member, duly called, provided that the notice to such meeting include a copy of the proposed amendments and that the agenda show that such amendments will be considered for enactment. Any proposed amendment which is not on the meeting notice will not be acted on at the meeting, but will be referred to the Bylaws Committee for their review and report.

Article IX **Title 19**

(1) New Jersey Statutory Title 19 (Elections) shall apply in all situations not covered by these Bylaws.

Article X **Municipal Committees**

(1) The reorganization meeting of the municipal committees to elect a Municipal Chair and Vice Chair (opposite genders recommended) may be held any time after the Primary Election and before the County reorganization meeting. The recommendation to the County Chair of whom they would recommend be placed on the organization line for the Primary Election must be made by a majority of the municipal committee at an actual meeting; the same shall apply when selecting someone to fill a vacancy on the County Committee or Township Committee/ Town Council. A phone poll is not acceptable. Municipal Committees may use County Committee Bylaws as their own.

Deputies

(2) Each County Committee member may appoint from their voting district a deputy of either gender to assist in the campaign efforts with the approval of the Municipal Committee. The deputies will assist in phone banks, lawn sign placement, door to door candidate campaign, and all other political activities. They may attend meetings, and can be appointed to committees. They are not entitled to vote on County Committee matters.

Article XI
Official Slogan

(1) The official slogan of the County Committee shall be “Hunterdon County Regular Republican Organization” or “Hunterdon County Regular Organization Republican” or any other approved slogan, and the slogans shall be incorporated or otherwise established so that its use may be restricted to those candidates so authorized by these Bylaws and Title 19 of the New Jersey Statutes. The Executive Advisory Committee shall decide which slogan to use in each election.

Article XII
Committees

The standing committees of the County Committee are:

The Executive Advisory Committee
The Nominating Committee
The Bylaws Committee
The Finance Committee

Other committees may be established from time to time as may be necessary.

Original By-laws adopted: June 15, 1999

Corrections : April 1, 2010

These bylaws were adopted as amended: April 8, 2010.

March 2020

**Addendum to:
Constitution and By-Laws
Of the Hunterdon County Republican Committee
Voted and approved at April 8, 2010 Endorsement Meeting**

Due to the national emergency resulting from the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the Hunterdon County Republican Committee Executive Committee proposes the following changes to the by-laws.

One Time Changes

1. The election for County Committee Members scheduled for June 2, 2020 is cancelled.
2. Members of the County Committee for June 2020 through June 2022 shall be selected as follows:
 - a. Individuals who have filed petitions for County Committee by March 30, 2020 (the filing deadline) and do not have a challenge will be appointed to a 2-year term from June, 9 2020 through June 13, 2022.
 - b. Cases where no petition has been filed will be treated as a vacancy and filled in compliance with the current by-laws.
 - c. In cases where there is a challenge for a seat, they will be treated as a tie. The tie will be broken by the members of the local county committee that have been selected for the 2020-2022 term.
 - i. In cases where there is a tie in the municipal committee vote or no quorum to break the tie, the seat will be filled by the County Chair with preference going to the incumbent where applicable.
3. Meeting participation – while the State of New Jersey emergency declaration for Covid-19 remains in place, each Municipal Committee shall have the authority to determine how to best do business. The Municipal Chair will have discretion to convene a meeting via conference call or other means that includes the ability for all qualified Members to participate.

Permanent Changes

1. Meeting notice - the 7-day meeting notice requirement can be achieved by electronic means such as email or texting. If a Committee Member does not have texting or email capability written notice via the United States mail or hand delivery is required.

Voting on these by-law changes

1. Voting will be done remotely. Members of the County Committee will access the ballot via the HunterdonGOP.com web page. and submit their vote electronically.
2. If you are unable to vote electronically, we will establish a log to record a verbal vote.
3. Each Member will have a unique ID number to assure the security of the vote. Similar to your voter id # with the Board of Elections, this identifying # will remain confidential.

The Party will re-organize this June and vote for Officers (Chairman, 1st Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) as required by the current by-laws.

The 2022 County Committee Elections will be conducted as previous elections.