

**MERCER COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE
CONSTITUTION & BY LAWS**

Approved 2002

Amended: March 18, 2010; January 20, 2011 and March 11, 2016

ARTICLE I

Section 1. Name: This organization shall be known as “the Mercer County Republican Committee” [hereinafter referred to as "COMMITTEE"].

Section 2. Purpose: The purpose of the COMMITTEE is to nominate qualified candidates for all public offices, as well as promote the principles, establish the policy, direct the affairs and further the goals of the Republican Party and to insure decent and responsible government in our community and its municipalities.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Eligibility: All members of the COMMITTEE shall be registered Republican voters and shall not be, or declare themselves to be, members of any other political party, which actively supports candidates or principles contrary to the interests of the Mercer County Republican Party as established by the COMMITTEE.

Section 2. Election or Appointment: The COMMITTEE shall consist of two persons of any gender residing in each voting or election district in the County who shall be duly elected at the primary for the general election once every four years commencing with the 2016 primary election or who shall be appointed to said position as provided for herein.

Section 3. Additional Members: The following Mercer County residents shall also be full voting members of the COMMITTEE:

All Republican Municipal Chairs; all Municipal Republican Club Presidents; all registered Republicans elected in partisan elections to public office [excluding School Board officials]; all registered Republicans elected to public office [excluding School Board officials] in municipalities which hold non-partisan elections for municipal office in Mercer County; all Republican State Committee members who reside in Mercer County; and all Executive Committee members and officers appointed according to this Constitution.

Section 4. Term: The term of office for all COMMITTEE members shall be 4 years and shall terminate at 12:01 a.m. on the first Saturday following the primary election of 2016 and following the primary election every four years thereafter.

Section 5. Removal: An elected officer of the Mercer County Republican Committee shall be removed from office upon the vote of no less than two-thirds of the Committee in attendance at a specially called meeting called for the purpose of considering said removal. The special meeting may be called by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at any meeting of said Executive Committee, by Petition for Removal signed by no less than a majority of said Executive Committee or by Petition for Removal signed by no fewer than fifty percent of the Members of the Mercer County Republican Committee.

Section 6. Vacancies: All vacancies caused by death, resignation, removal, and failure to elect or otherwise shall be filled for the unexpired term in the following manner:

- a. Any vacancies in COMMITTEE election district positions shall be filled by the members of the COMMITTEE in the municipality wherein the vacancy occurs within 30 days of the reorganization meeting of the municipal committee, pursuant to Title 19 of the New Jersey Statutes.
- b. A vacancy occurring in the office of County Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer shall be filled by vote of the Mercer County Republican Executive Committee at a special meeting called for that purpose. A vacancy occurring in the office of deputy treasurer, recording secretary, or committee counsel shall be filled by the County Chairperson. All such vacancies shall be filled within thirty (30) days after their occurrence. In the event of vacancy, those offices shall be filled for the unexpired term by vote of the Mercer County Executive Committee at a meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE III – MEETINGS

Section 1. Reorganization: The COMMITTEE shall hold a reorganization meeting, upon proper notice as provided herein, on the first Tuesday after the primary election in 2016 and after the primary election held every four years thereafter for the purpose of electing officers as provided herein. All individuals elected to the COMMITTEE at the primary election shall receive notice of the reorganization meeting as provided herein.

Section 2. Annual Convention: The COMMITTEE shall hold an annual convention, upon proper notice as provided for herein, to select or endorse candidates for federal, state and county offices which will appear on the ballot in that year. The time of said convention shall be established by the Chair with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Special Meetings: Special meetings may be called by the Chair, upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee, hereinafter described, or upon the signed petition of 1/3 of the eligible membership of the COMMITTEE. Written notice of all special meetings shall be mailed to all members of the COMMITTEE at least seven (7) days prior to any such meeting. The notice shall state the purpose or purposes of said meeting and no other matter may be

finally acted upon, unless reasonably specified in such statement of purpose for said meeting.

Section 4. Regular Meetings: Regular meetings shall be held at a time and place determined by the Chair. There shall be a minimum of two meetings of the Mercer County Republican Committee annually one of which will be the Annual Convention.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers: The officers of the COMMITTEE shall be the County Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Counsel, Recording Secretary, Deputy Treasurer.

Section 2. Term and Election: The officers of the COMMITTEE, with the exception of the Recording Secretary, Committee Counsel and Deputy Treasurer, shall be elected at the organizational meeting to be held during 2016 and every fourth year thereafter provided for in ARTICLE IV. The term of office for each officer shall be four years. The Recording Secretary, Deputy Treasurer, and Committee Counsel shall be appointed by the County Chair and shall serve at the Chair's pleasure.

Section 3. Eligibility: All officers shall be registered Republicans residing in the County of Mercer.

Section 4. Powers and Duties: The following powers and duties are granted to the officers of the COMMITTEE:

- 1) Chair - The Chair shall be the presiding officer of the COMMITTEE.
The Chair shall: preside at all meetings of the COMMITTEE; have the power to enter into all contracts and obligations and spend all necessary and reasonable funds for the proper and effective operation of the COMMITTEE; determine the needs and have the ability to hire all personnel for the effective operation of the COMMITTEE; have the power to create subcommittees, designate subcommittee members and chairs and shall be an ex-officio member of all such subcommittees; have all powers granted by law and have any additional and reasonable powers deemed necessary, and not proscribed by said Constitution, for the effective operation of the COMMITTEE. The Chair shall have the specific ability to redelegate the roles of the officers hereinafter, in order to ensure efficient operation of the COMMITTEE.
- 2) 1st Vice Chair - The 1st Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in the performance of any and all duties required hereby and shall have the power to perform all duties of the Chair during the course of an official meeting of the COMMITTEE or at such other times when delegated by the Chair to so act in the Chair's absence.
- 3) 2nd Vice Chair - The 2nd Vice Chair shall also assist the Chair and the 1st Vice Chair in the performance of any and all duties required by this Constitution, and shall have the powers to perform all duties of the Chair during the course of an official

meeting of the COMMITTEE or at such other times when delegated by the Chair to so act in the absence of both the Chair and the 1st Vice Chair.

- 4) Secretary - The Secretary shall maintain and keep accurate files of all-important papers of the COMMITTEE and shall maintain and keep a current list of the members of the COMMITTEE, including names and addresses. The Secretary shall perform any other duties assigned by the Chair.
- 5) Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be the general custodian of all funds of the COMMITTEE and shall keep accurate records of all receipts and expenditures of the COMMITTEE. The Treasurer shall deposit all monies received into COMMITTEE bank accounts in a timely manner. The Treasurer shall provide monthly financial statements of the COMMITTEE to the Executive Committee and shall make a financial report at every meeting of the full COMMITTEE. All tax returns required by the federal or state government shall be filed in a timely manner by the Treasurer. In addition, the Treasurer shall file all required reports with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission or the Federal Election Commission. Upon approval of the Chair, the Treasurer shall pay all obligations of the COMMITTEE.
- 6) Deputy Treasurer - The Deputy Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer to perform any and all duties required under this Constitution.
- 7) Recording Secretary - The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee and COMMITTEE and shall keep and maintain all such minutes on file and shall perform any other duties requested by the Chair.
- 8) Committee Counsel - The Committee Counsel shall provide legal counsel to the Chair and handle all legal matters for the COMMITTEE. The Committee Counsel shall also Chair the Rules Committee and handle any other matters requested by the Chair.

ARTICLE V - COMMITTEES

Section 1. Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee shall formulate the policies and conduct the affairs of the Republican Party in the County of Mercer. It shall possess and exercise the authority to do all things necessary and proper for execution of the powers vested in it, for furthering the goals of the Republican Party and for insuring decent and responsible government in the Community. It shall meet at least six times each year.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the following persons:

- a) The officers of the Mercer County Republican Committee, as defined in Article IV of this constitution.

- b) The two (2) StateCommittee members.
- c) The duly elected municipal chairperson of each municipality in the County of Mercer.
- d) Three (3) registered Republican voters currently holding elective public municipal, county or state office to be chosen by the County Chairman. Each person so chosen shall reside in a different municipality.
- e) Thirteen (13) registered Republican voters, one selected from each municipality. Hamilton Township shall have an additional three (3) members and, Ewing Township an additional one (1) member. The said representative(s) shall be appointed by the Municipal Chairperson.
- f) Ten (10) persons to be appointed by the County Chair. In addition, five (5) registered Republican voters shall be chosen by the County Chair to represent all Republicans including representatives of organized labor, industry, business, and public employee groups.
- g) The Chairperson of the Capital Club.
- h) The immediate four (4) past Chairs of the COMMITTEE.
- i) The chairperson of the Mercer County Young Republicans.
- j) The president of the Republican Women of Mercer County.

Section 2. *Other Committees:* The Chair shall have the discretion to appoint *ad hoc* committees to address issues and matters of concern to the COMMITTEE. Membership of these committees shall be determined by the Chair with recommendations from the Executive Committee. Such committees shall from time to time make reports to the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI-NOTICE AND QUORUM

Section 1. *Notice:* All acts, decisions and other business of the COMMITTEE or the Executive Committee shall be taken at meetings for which written notice was issued to the membership entitled to vote at such meetings by any reasonable means of communication including but not limited to regular mail, e-mail, or other effective means of notification, at least seven (7) days prior to any such meeting, unless a greater notice period is required herein or by law; provided however that acts, decisions and other business shall not be invalidated

except under circumstances where the means employed by the Committee to give notice of a meeting was unreasonable and substantially ineffective to reach the membership.

Section 2. Quorum: Physical attendance at any such meeting shall be at least 20% of the eligible membership of either body, which shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII - VOTING

Section 1. Elections: All votes to elect, endorse, remove, discipline, or otherwise affect the rights of any person within the Republican Party as provided for under this Constitution, shall be by secret ballot.

Section 2. Other Matters: Any other act or decision of the COMMITTEE or other bodies created herein that requires a vote not covered by Article VII, Section 1, shall be by voice vote, unless a majority of the members present at such a meeting shall otherwise determine. With the exception of proposed amendments to the Constitution & By Laws of the COMMITTEE and Article II Section 5 (Removal), all questions, issues and other matters to be decided by vote of the COMMITTEE, the Executive Committee or any subcommittee shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast.

Section 3. Proxies: Proxy voting shall not be permitted. All members shall be in physical attendance of any meeting in order to cast their votes.

ARTICLE VIII -AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Repeals and Supersedes: Upon adoption of this Constitution and these By Laws by a 2/3rds vote of the members of the COMMITTEE, this Constitution shall supersede any and all previous Constitutions and By-Laws of the Mercer County Republican Committee.

Section 2. Severability: If any provision of this Constitution or the application thereof is held to be invalid by law, the remainder of the Constitution shall not be affected and shall remain in force.

Section 3. Amendments: This Constitution and these By Laws may be amended by a 2/3rds vote of all members of the COMMITTEE present at any regular or special meeting provided due notice of said meeting shall have been given and a copy of any proposed amendment shall be given to each and every member of the COMMITTEE with such meeting notice

Section 4. Review: The County Chair may appoint a committee to review this Constitution and these By Laws and to make recommendations for amendments when deemed necessary. Any proposed amendment shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee, which, by a majority vote, shall decide whether such amendment shall be submitted to the COMMITTEE for adoption.

ARTICLE IX - GENERAL RULES

Section 1. Meeting Rules: Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th Edition, shall govern the conduct of COMMITTEE meetings except to the extent that they may be in conflict with any provision of the Constitution in which event the provisions of this Constitution shall govern.

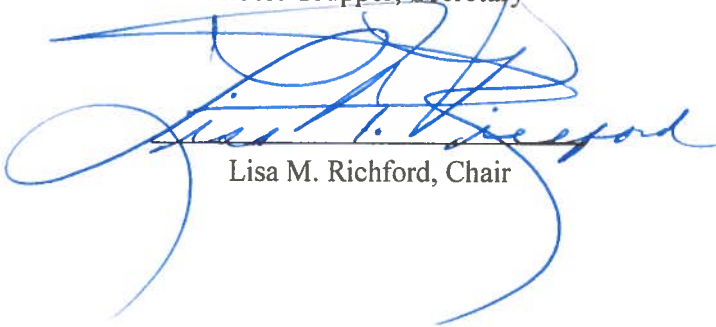
Section 2. Annual Convention Rules: The Executive Committee shall adopt, upon recommendations from the Convention Rules Committee, appointed by the Chair in anticipation of the annual convention, additional rules to govern the Annual Convention. Said rules shall be adopted prior to the Convention and be provided to members attending the Convention.

Section 3. Amendment Meetings: The Executive Committee may adopt specific rules to govern a COMMITTEE meeting wherein an amendment to this Constitution shall be considered.

Adopted by a two-thirds majority of the members of the COMMITTEE present and voting on March 11, 2016



Albert Grupper, Secretary



Lisa M. Richford, Chair