

Bylaws of the Okanogan County Republican Party Central Committee

Amended April 27, 2023

Article 1 — Name

The name of this organization shall be the Okanogan County Republican Party Central Committee (the “OCRCP”). In these Bylaws, the phrase “Central Committee” shall refer to the physical or electronic meeting of the whole membership.

Article 2 — Authority

These Bylaws are set forth under authority of the laws of the State of Washington permitting political parties to make their own rules and regulations and to perform all functions essential to the operation of such an organization.

Article 3 — Purpose

The purpose of the OCRCP shall be to promote conservative principles of government by developing and implementing strategies to

- Recruit and elect Republicans to public office at all levels of government, both partisan and non-partisan
- Recruit Republicans for appointive offices at all levels of government
- Attract voters and volunteers to the Republican Party
- Provide leadership for local Republicans
- Organize, plan, finance, and conduct the business affairs of the OCRCP in a manner consistent with the laws of the state and the best interests of the citizens of Okanogan County.

Article 4 — The Central Committee

Section 4.1 — Membership

PCOs and members of the Executive Board shall constitute the membership of the Central Committee. PCOs shall mean elected Precinct Committee Officers, appointed Precinct Committee Officers, and appointed non-resident Precinct Committee Officers.

Section 4.2 — Duties

The Central Committee shall

- Elect the County Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, State Committeeman, and State Committeewoman
- Elect three representatives to each appropriate Republican Legislative District Committee
- Adopt or amend these Bylaws
- Approve the annual objectives, fund-raising plan, and budget
- Supervise the timely accomplishment of programs
- Supervise Precinct Caucuses and County Convention as called
- Approve resolutions
- Assist in filling Republican county or legislative vacancies in accord with specified procedures. (Typically, the PCOs of all affected precincts choose 3 candidates who are passed on to the County Commissioners for final selection. Only PCOs who were elected, or who were appointed at least 60 days prior to the vacancy, may vote.)
- Take such other actions as required by state law, the WSRP, or these Bylaws.

Article 5 – The Executive Board

Section 5.1 – Membership

Officers listed in Sections 5.3 - 5.9 shall constitute the Executive Board.

Section 5.2 – Duties

The Executive Board shall

- Prepare recommendations for the Central Committee on budgets, objectives, resolutions, the County Convention Call, and similar matters
- Exercise fiduciary oversight by approving financial policies, authorizing signature authorities, and appointing an independent auditor for an annual review of financial records and practices
- Provide advice and consent to the County Chairperson on all appointments and dismissals
- Act on behalf of the Central Committee in urgent matters, subject to later ratification by the Central Committee
- Assist the County Chairperson as required

Section 5.3 – County Chairperson

The County Chairperson shall be the Chairperson of the Central Committee and of the Executive Board, and presides at all meetings of these bodies. The County Chairperson shall be responsible for the proper functioning of all officers and committees of the OCRP to insure programs and policies are successfully administered and business is properly conducted. The County Chairperson shall

- Appoint a Secretary, Treasurer and such committees as needed for conducting the business of the OCRP
- Submit written plans for annual objectives and budgets to the Executive Board and the Central Committee in accord with the timeline in Section 9.3.
- Be responsible for the safekeeping of the OCRP's records and shall promptly transfer them in good order to the successor.
- Have the power to appoint or remove any appointed officer, including appointed PCOs, and to fill all vacancies, in accordance with the procedures specified in Section 6.6
- Prepare and submit to all Central Committee members in December of each year a written summary of the year's activities and programs.
- Help to represent the OCRP on the state level by attending (or arranging for a proxy to attend) statewide meetings of the WSRP.

Section 5.4 – County Vice Chairperson

The Vice Chairperson shall assist the County Chairperson as requested in the performance of any Chairperson duties. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the County Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall exercise all powers and perform all duties of the County Chairperson, until the vacancy has been filled by the Central Committee.

Section 5.5 – State Committeeman and State Committeewoman

These officers shall represent the OCRP on the state level and act as liaison between the county and state Republican organizations. This duty includes attendance (or arranging for a proxy to attend) at statewide meetings of the WSRP, and reporting at each Central Committee or Executive Board meeting.

Section 5.6 — Area Chairperson

The County is divided into Areas defined in Appendix 1. Each Area elects an Area Chairperson. The Area Chairperson shall

- Develop new PCOs volunteers for unrepresented Precincts in their Area
- Keep PCOs in their Area informed, provide them with the necessary manuals and materials, and involve them with OCRP objectives
- Attend training sessions as offered and conduct training sessions for Area PCOs as needed
- Call Area meetings as needed, giving notice at least 72 hours in advance, and ensuring that a copy of the minutes of the meeting are conveyed promptly to the County Chairperson.
- Represent their Area on the Executive Board.

Section 5.7 — Legislative District Committee Representatives

Okanogan County is a part of Legislative District 7, which has a Republican Legislative District Committee (“RLDC”) whose main goals are to coordinate Party activities across counties and to elect Republican state legislators from that district. The RLDC holds an organizational meeting by June 30 of every odd numbered year. The OCRP shall elect 3 representatives to RLDC 7.

Our elected representatives shall represent the OCRP in the RLDC and act as a liaison between the County and this Republican campaign organization. This duty includes attendance (or arranging for a proxy to attend) at regional meetings, which may be in person or virtual, and giving updates at each Central Committee or Executive Board meeting.

Section 5.8 — Secretary

The Secretary, appointed by the County Chairperson, shall serve on both the Central Committee and the Executive Board. The Secretary shall produce thorough, accurate, and timely minutes of the proceedings of all meetings of the Central Committee and of the Executive Board, including detailed records of all actions taken.

Section 5.9 — Treasurer

The Treasurer is appointed by the County Chairperson.

The Treasurer shall

- Receive and receipt all money received by the OCRP and deposit all funds in a federally insured financial institution
- Pay all bills, as authorized by the approved budget. Bills shall be paid by pre-paid credit card or check, signed and executed by the Treasurer, and bearing a second signature from the list approved by the Executive Board
- Submit financial reports to the County Chairperson, Central Committee, and Executive Board as requested
- Timely report OCRP receipts and expenditures, in compliance with state and federal election laws. The Treasurer shall become familiar with reporting information and forms found in the PDC and FEC websites, and will learn to utilize the helpdesks of these sites to get answers to questions

Section 5.10 — Executive Assistant

The County Chairperson may, at his/her discretion, retain an Executive Assistant to assist him/her in accomplishing his/her duties and implementing party bylaws, rules and policies. The Executive Assistant shall take office only after approval of his/her credentials and qualification by the Executive Board. The Executive Assistant shall report to and serve at the pleasure of the County Chairperson and the Executive Board.

Article 6 — Selection and Terms of Officers

Section 6.1 — Qualifications for Election or Appointment

All persons nominated to serve as an officer of the OCRP must be a registered voter of Okanogan County. In addition, if their office represents a certain geographic region, they must be a resident of that region.

Section 6.2 — At-Large Officers

All nominations for County Chairperson, County Vice Chairperson, and State Committeeman and Committeewoman to be elected by the Central Committee shall be called for and made from the floor. In compliance with RCW 29A.80.030, the County Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be of opposite sexes. This requirement may be waived, if necessary, when refilling a position due to a vacancy during the term of office.

In the event that more than two candidates are placed in nomination for any office, the members present shall first vote upon all said nominees. If one candidate receives a majority of all votes cast, that candidate shall be declared elected. If no candidate receives a majority of all votes cast, the two receiving the highest number of votes shall then become nominees to be voted upon for the office to be filled. The members shall then vote on the two candidates so nominated and the one receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. Alternatively, the quicker and more accurate Ranked Choice Voting method may be used to select the winner among 3 or more nominees, using a single ballot. All voting shall be by secret ballot.

Section 6.3 — Area Chairpersons

PCOs shall caucus with their respective Areas in order to elect an Area Chairperson. The procedures specified in Section 6.2 shall be followed. The precincts included in each Area are specified in Appendix 1.

Section 6.4 — Legislative District Representatives

PCOs shall caucus with Legislative District 7 in order to elect Legislative District Representatives. Nominations shall be accepted from the floor and each member shall vote for up to 3 candidates by secret ballot. The top 3 vote-getters shall be considered elected. A runoff election can be held to resolve a tie, if necessary.

Section 6.5 — Terms of Office

All of the officers of the Executive Board shall serve from the time of their election or appointment until the following biennial reorganization meeting. Committee members and other special appointees shall serve from the time of their appointment until the completion of their charge, or until the following biennial reorganization meeting, whichever comes first.

Section 6.6 — Vacancies and Removals

Vacancies occur when officers resign, die, move out of Okanogan County, or move out of the Precinct, Area, or Legislative District for which they were elected or appointed. (The officer has an obligation to promptly report any change of address to the County Auditor and the County Chairperson.) A vacancy can also occur due to a failure to elect a PCO at an even-year primary.

Vacancies in an office can also occur as a result of a disqualification for any of the following reasons:

- Public opposition to the party's candidates
- Inappropriate sharing of confidential information
- Unethical actions that reflect on the party's reputation
- Four consecutive unexcused absences from meetings.

(Section 6.6 — Vacancies and Removals - continued)

Removal from office by disqualification requires a 2/3 vote of the Central Committee, acting on a recommendation from the Executive Board.

When a vacancy occurs in the office of County Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, State Committeeman, or Committeewoman, the Central Committee shall meet within 45 days to fill the unexpired term in the manner outlined in Section 6.2.

When a vacancy occurs in the office of Area Chairperson or Legislative District Representative, the County Chairperson shall call a meeting of the appropriate caucus of PCOs within 60 days to fill the unexpired term in the manner specified in Section 6.3 or 6.4 as appropriate.

Vacancies occurring in the appointed offices of the Executive Board shall be filled promptly through appointment by the County Chairperson with the advice and consent of the Executive Board.

Vacancies in the representation of precincts shall be filled, as candidates become available, through appointment by the County Chairperson, first from among Republicans registered to vote in the vacant Precinct, then from registered Republican voters in any County Precinct. Both resident and non-resident PCOs have the same rights and duties. New PCO candidates shall be appointed after attending two Central Committee meetings, after being nominated by a PCO in good standing, and after meeting with the Executive Board and gaining their consent. Former Okanogan County PCOs may be reappointed without vetting with Executive Board approval. In compliance with RCW 29A.80.031, no vacancies may be filled until after the organizational meeting.

To deter vote manipulation by the appointing authority, there is a 30 day provisional period after a person is appointed as a PCO. During that period, the appointee may participate in discussion but must have the consent of the established members of a meeting in order to vote.

Article 7 — Meetings

Section 7.1 — Organizational Meeting

At the direction of RCW 29A.80, new PCOs are elected during the primaries of even numbered years and take over from the retiring officers on the following December 1. Further, state law requires that, by the second Saturday of January, the newly-elected PCOs must meet at the call of the retiring County Chairperson to adopt Bylaws and to elect a County Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of opposite sexes.

To facilitate the organizational meeting, the retiring County Chairperson shall

- Set a time and place for the meeting which is convenient to as many of the new PCOs as possible
- Convene a Bylaws Committee drawn from newly-elected PCOs
- Appoint a Secretary for the organizational meeting
- Mail or e-mail a notice at least 10 days in advance of the meeting to the last known address of each newly-elected PCO and to candidates for appointment as PCOs. The notice shall indicate the time and place of the meeting and include the following draft agenda:

(Section 7.1 — Organizational Meeting - continued)

Central Committee Organizational Meeting

- Call to order (by retiring County Chairperson)
- Pledge of allegiance
- Confirm quorum (a majority of all newly-elected PCOs, per Robert's Rules, Sect. 40)
- Administer the oath of office to the newly-elected PCOs
- Elect a Meeting Chairperson
- Receive Bylaws Committee report
- Adopt Bylaws (by a majority vote of newly-elected PCOs present, per Robert's Rules, Sect. 54)
- Elect County Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of opposite sexes (per RCW 29A.80.030)
- Adjourn the Organizational meeting

Central Committee Business Meeting

- Call to order (by newly-elected County Chairperson)
- Pledge of allegiance (when meeting electronically)
- Confirm quorum (1/5 of all newly-elected PCOs per these Bylaws)
- Appoint Secretary and Treasurer
- Reappoint attending PCOs who held office during the last calendar year
- Administer the oath of office to reappointed PCOs
- Motion by the elected PCOs to extend voting privileges to reappointed PCOs
- Elect State Committeeman and State Committeewoman
- Break into Area caucuses to elect Area Chairpersons
- Reconvene to elect Legislative District Representatives
- Perform other business as needed
- Adjourn business meeting

Section 7.2 — Central Committee Meetings

The County Chairperson shall call at least 2 meetings of the Central Committee each year, designating a time, place, and purpose by mailing a notice to the last known address of each member no later than 10 days prior to the meeting date. If authorized by the member, notice may be provided by e-mail or text instead of regular mail.

The County Chairperson shall call a meeting of the Central Committee, within 14 days and with regular notice, whenever 2/3 of the elected members of the Executive Board or a majority of the members of the Central Committee demand that a meeting be called. In the event that County Chairperson refuses to act, the petitioners shall issue a regular notice of meeting to all Central Committee members, identifying the petitioners and designating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

Section 7.3 — Executive Board Meetings

The County Chairperson shall call meetings of the Executive Board at least once in each quarter, giving at least 72 hours notice to Board members. The Board may meet in person, by teleconference, or by reply-all e-mail as needed. Central Committee meetings also qualify as Executive Board meetings.

If the County Chairperson fails to call an Executive Board or Central Committee meeting in any calendar quarter, a meeting may be called by the County Vice Chairperson or by 2/3 of the members of the Executive Board.

Section 7.4 — Precinct Caucuses

Precinct caucuses shall be held in accordance with State Committee directives prior to the County Convention, for the purpose of electing delegates to the County Convention, recommending planks and resolutions for the County Platform, and such other business as may be directed.

PCOs shall chair their Precinct Caucuses and shall automatically serve as delegates to the County Convention, subject to any rules required by WSRP guidelines.

Article 7.5 — County Convention

The County Chairperson shall coordinate planning for a Republican County Convention in accordance with a call from the State Committee.

Article 8 — Meeting Rules

Section 8.1 — Quorums

For the organizational meeting, the quorum shall be a majority of the newly-elected PCOs, in conformance with Robert's Rules of Order, Section 40.

For Central Committee meetings, 1/5 of the membership shall constitute a quorum. The presence of the County Chairperson or Vice Chairperson and the Secretary or designate is also required for the transaction of business.

An endorsement vote of one Republican over another Republican requires a quorum of a majority of all current PCOs.

For Executive Board meetings, 1/3 of the Board shall constitute a quorum. The presence of the County Chairperson or Vice Chairperson and the Secretary or designate is also required for the transaction of business.

For Area meetings, other than the Organizational meeting, 1/3 of the number of PCOs in the Area shall constitute a quorum. The presence of the Area Chairperson or designate and a designated secretary is also required for the transaction of business.

Section 8.2 — Proxies and Guests

In conformance with state law, proxies shall not be allowed at the biennial organizational meetings.

Any members who know in advance that they will be absent from a called meeting of the Central Committee, Executive Board, or other designated committee should arrange to be represented by proxy. All proxies shall be held by a voting member. The proxy request shall be in writing or by e-mail to the meeting secretary or chairperson prior to the meeting and shall declare the reason for the absence. The Secretary will call the attention of the assembly to any proxies before a quorum is established.

Due to holding a proxy or multiple offices, one person may sometimes represent multiple constituencies. However, no person may cast more than one personal vote on any one ballot, though they may cast multiple proxy votes for proxies they hold.

All OCRP business meetings are private events, closed to the general public.

However, invited speakers and conservative guests of attending PCOs are welcome.

Section 8.3 — Rules of Order

In business meetings of the OCRP, Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority, except where superseded by federal or state law or by these Bylaws.

The order of business may be modified at the discretion of the meeting chairperson, but will typically follow the pattern

1. Pledge of allegiance
2. Quorum confirmation
3. Introductions
4. Adoption of minutes
5. Adoption of agenda
6. Reports of officers and committees
7. Unfinished business
8. New business
9. Program
10. Announcements

Section 8.4 — Voting and Suspension of Rules

In determining majorities, only yea and nay votes of attending members and announced proxies are used. Abstentions may be recorded but do not affect the majority calculation. A member may abstain on any issue, but shall abstain on measures which involve a conflict of interest.

Except in cases where these Bylaws specify a 2/3 majority, a simple majority shall be sufficient to enact any measure or to elect for any office.

Any provision of these Bylaws may be temporarily suspended, for a stated purpose, by a 2/3 majority.

The provisions of this section apply at all meetings of the OCRP or its subunits, including the Central Committee, the Executive Board, Area Committees, appointed committees, and Precinct Caucuses. However, a County Convention operates according to rules adopted specifically for that meeting.

Section 8.5 — Resolutions

To provide for thorough consideration, a proposed resolution must be presented to the County Chairperson at least 7 days before the Central Committee meeting at which it is to be proposed for adoption. The County Chairperson shall distribute the proposed resolution to all PCOs and call a meeting of the Executive Board to review the submission. The Executive Board's documented recommendation will be presented to the Central Committee when it begins deliberation on the proposed resolution. The adoption of a resolution requires only a simple majority vote.

Article 9 — Finance & Endorsement

Section 9.1 — Fiscal Year

The fiscal year for the OCRP shall be from January 1 to the following December 31 of the same calendar year, both dates inclusive.

Section 9.2 — Budget Timeline

Until a budget has been adopted, expenditures shall be authorized as in the previous year's budget, unless the Central Committee or Executive Board shall direct otherwise.

The County Chairperson shall submit a plan of annual objectives, fund-raising, and expenditures to the Executive Board no later than February 15 of each year. The annual budget plan must be submitted to the Central Committee by the County Chairperson no later than March 1 of each year.

Section 9.3 — Endorsements and Campaign Contributions

Endorsements and financial contributions for campaigns are vital to accomplishing the OCRP's mission. Endorsement and contribution decisions are made by the Central Committee, on the recommendation of the Executive Board or an appropriate appointed committee. To endorse one Republican over another Republican requires a 2/3 supermajority of the quorum referred to in Section 8.1.

Campaign contributions shall be prioritized as follows:

1. Endorsed candidates who are running against opposition for County office, either partisan or non-partisan. (Example: County Commissioner)
2. Endorsed candidates who are running against opposition for state legislative office representing some or all of Okanogan County. (Example: State Senator for Legislative District 7)
3. Endorsed candidates who are running against opposition for statewide office, either partisan or non-partisan. (Examples: Secretary of State, State Supreme Court Justice)
4. Endorsed local or state ballot measures.

The OCRP shall not make direct contributions to federal candidates, due to complex FEC reporting regulations. However, we can include federal recommendations on printed slate cards and other advertisements if the pro-rata cost is minimal (less than \$200 per candidate), and we can distribute materials which federal candidates have provided.

Article 10 — Amendments to Bylaws

Grammatical corrections and adjustments to appendices may be made by a simple majority vote of the Central Committee. More substantial changes shall be submitted to and reviewed by the Executive Board. The Board shall provide the proposed changes in written form, accompanied by the Board's recommendation, to members attending a properly announced meeting of the Central Committee. Adoption of amendments requires a 2/3 majority. A copy of the amended pages of the Bylaws shall be sent by mail or e-mail to each member of the Central Committee no later than 20 days after adoption. A printout of the complete current Bylaws document is available on request to any member at any time.

— End of Bylaws —

Appendix 1 – Precincts Assigned to Each Area

Area #	Vicinity of	Included Precincts
1	Twisp Winthrop	Airport, Aviation, Bally Hill, Beaver Creek, Bridge Creek, Carlton, Crossroads, Davis Lake, Edelweiss, Finley Canyon, Horizon, Leecher Mtn, Lewis Butte, Libby Creek, Mazama, McClure Mtn, Moccasin Lake, Patterson Lake, Pearygin Lake, Poorman Creek, Twin Lakes, Twisp 1-4, Twisp Airport, Twisp Rural, West Chewuch, Wilderness, Winthrop 1-2, Winthrop Rural, Wolf Creek
2	Brewster Pateros	Alta Lake, Black Canyon, Brewster 1-6, Brewster Airport, Brewster Flat, Brewster Rural, Methow, Monse 1-3, North Star, Pateros 1-3, Pateros Rural, Pioneer, Rat Lake, Starr, Valley
3	Coulee Dam Nespelem	Buffalo Lake, Columbia, Coulee Dam 1-4, Duley Lake, Elmer City, Elmerton, McGinnis Lake, Nespelem City, Nespelem Rural, Owhi
4	Malott Okanogan	Alma, Boston, Canal, Chiliwist, Dixon, Duck Lake, Eastside, Elmway, Fiker, Fletcher, Glover, Hendrick, Hudson, Island, Kermel, Malott, Mock, North Malott, Okanogan 1-16, Okanogan Airport, Okanogan Rural, Orchard, Pogue, Rodeo Trail 1-3, Ross Canyon, Spring Coulee
5	Omak Riverside	Aston, Cherokee, Coleman Butte, Conconully City, Conconully Rural, Copple, Disautel, Engh, Flats, Greenacres, Johnson Creek, Lime Belt, Lone Pine, Mission, Nichols, North Omak, Omak 1-27, Omak Airport, Omak Lake, Omak Mtn, Omak River, Omak Rural, Omak Unincorporated, Riverside City, Riverside Rural, Sand Flat, South Omak, Sunset Lakes, Tunk Creek, West River
6	Tonasket	Aeneas, Aeneas Creek, Aeneas Lake, Anglin, Antoine Creek, Antoine Peak, Beeman, Bonaparte, Cape Labelle, Cayuse Mtn, Chewiliken, Crumbacher, Duffys Mtn, Ellisforde, Frontage, Gusty Ridge, Havillah, Highway, Janis, Lake Andrews, Leese, Longanecker, Loomis, North Tonasket, Palmer Lake, Pickens Mtn, Pine Cone, Pine Creek, San Poil, Siwash Creek, Sourdough, Spectacle Lake, Tonasket 1-7, Tonasket Airport, Tonasket Rural, Toroda, Wauconda, Whisky Mtn, Whitestone, Yarnell
7	Chesaw Oroville	Blue Lake, Bodie, Boundary, Buckhorn Mtn, Chesaw, Deep Bay, Eastlake, Eder, Horseshoe Lake, Jennings Loop, Kipling, Molson, Myers Creek, Nighthawk, Oroville 1-10, Oroville Airport, Ranches, Shoreline, Similkameen, South Oroville, Teal Lake, Tonasket Creek, Wannacut, Westlake