



FAYETTE COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

Bylaws for the Fayette County Republican Committee

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FAYETTE COUNTY PA
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1. Article I: Organization

1.1. Name and Status

This organization, to be known as the "Fayette County Republican Committee" (and referred to herein as the "County Committee"), shall be the governing body of the Republican Party in Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

1.2. Organizational Bodies

The Fayette County Republican Committee shall consist of the following bodies:

- a) County Committee
- b) Executive Committee of the County Committee, the "Executive Board"
- c) Such other committees as may be appointed from time to time by the County Chairman.

1.3. Districts

- District 1 – Uniontown
- District 2 – Connellsville City and Connellsville Township
- District 3 – Brownsville Borough, Brownsville Township, and Redstone Township.
- District 4 – Georges Township, Springhill Township, Point Marion Borough, Smithfield Borough, and Fairchance Borough.
- District 5 – German Township, Nicholson Township, and Masontown Borough.
- District 6 – South Union Township
- District 7 – Franklin Township, Perryopolis Township, Perry Borough, Lower Tyrone Township, Upper Tyrone Township, and Everson Borough
- District 8 – Washington Township, Jefferson Township, Belle Vernon Borough, Fayette City Borough, and Newell Borough.
- District 9 – Luzerne Township and Menallen Township
- District 10 – Dunbar Township, Dunbar Borough, Dawson Borough, and Vanderbilt Borough
- District 11 – Bullskin Township, and Saltlick Township
- District 12 – Ohiopyle Borough, Stewart Township, and Springfield Township
- District 13 – Wharton Township, Henry Clay Township, and Markleysburg Borough
- District 14 – North Union Township

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2. Article II: Members of the County Committee

2.1. Purpose

The Fayette County Republican Committee shall be responsible for the general supervision, regulation, promotion, administration, and direction of the affairs of the Republican Party of Fayette County.

2.2. Qualification for Membership

Any registered Republican elector residing in Fayette County Pennsylvania shall be eligible to be a member of the Fayette County Republican Committee regardless of race, color, creed, sex, disability status, or national origin. Eligible Republican electors shall be registered as a Republican a minimum of one (1) year to be eligible to vote on committee business. No person having been adjudicated mentally unfit by a court of the Commonwealth shall be permitted to participate in committee business. No person having been convicted of a violent felony or election crime shall be permitted to participate in committee business.

2.3. Election and Vacancies

- a) Each election precinct shall elect up to two (2) members to the County Committee by the qualified Republican electors of that election precinct at the Primary election held every fourth (4th) year, coinciding with the gubernatorial election year. On-ballot and write-in candidates shall be required to have a minimum of ten (10) votes; write-in votes shall include ballots cast in misspellings of the name of the candidate and shall be appointed by the Executive Committee elected following the 4th year primary. Only candidates meeting the misspelling criteria outlined above shall be appointed in the interim from the spring primary to the organizational meeting held in December, detailed in Article II Section 6.
- b) A vacancy occurring in the membership of the County Committee from any precinct or any new County Committee positions created by the creation of a new precinct shall be filled by the Chair with a vote of at least three (3) members of the Executive Committee.
- c) In the event of the abolition of a precinct or the consolidation of two (2) or more precincts, the member(s) representing the former precinct(s) shall continue to serve until the next election referred to in Article II, Section 3(a).
- d) A 3rd member in each precinct may be appointed by the Chairman with the approval of three (3) Executive Board members. Those appointed will serve until the end of the election term. The Executive Committee may only appoint committee members for the duration of their shared term and shall not appoint members to the newly formed committee following the fourth-year primary and before the Organizational Meeting. If open committee member positions remain after the spring primary in the gubernatorial election year, open positions may be filled by appointment (up to three appointed positions if no committee members are elected in that precinct).
- e) New members to the County Committee shall be appointed using the following criteria:
 - Complete an Appointed Committee Member Questionnaire
 - Collect ten (10) or more signatures from Republican electors in the precinct in which they reside (and are applying to become an appointed member in)
 - Attend three (3) regular monthly meetings of the Fayette County Republican Committee

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- Demonstrate involvement in events sanctioned by the Fayette County Republican Committee; for example, attending fundraisers held by the committee, donate materially to the county committee, or assist in the setup / function / teardown of events such as tending the booth at the Fayette County Fair.

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2.4. Term

Each elected member shall serve for a period of four (4) years from the day of the county election certification. The terms of each appointed member shall expire upon the county certification of the results of the fourth-year primary following their appointment.

2.5. Duties of the Committee Member

a) Duties of the Committee member include:

- Represent the Republican Party
- Circulating Petitions
- Registering Republican Voters
- Helping voters obtain Absentee/mail-in Ballots
- Covering the Polls on Election Day
- Recruiting and Training Volunteers for the administration of county elections
- Identifying, recruiting, and supporting qualified Republican Candidates, including cross-filed registered Republican candidates such as judges and school board candidates

b) County Committee members can only support registered Republicans electors as candidates that are so registered as of the date that an election nomination process starts and stay so registered, unless:

- i) There is no Republican candidate on the ballot, or
- ii) The number of Republican candidates is inadequate to fill the seats up for election in a multi-seat election.

In this case, committee members may support independent candidates whether cross-filed or otherwise, that receive a majority vote of support from the county committee.

2.6. Organizational Meeting

The County Chairman shall call an Organizational Meeting of the Fayette County Committee to be held at the regularly-scheduled December meeting following the gubernatorial election every four years for the purpose of electing the officers of the County Committee. This new term schedule is to be adopted in 2026.

2.7. Other Meetings

- a) The County Chairman may call special meetings outside the regularly-scheduled meetings from time to time as necessary to conduct the affairs of the County Committee.
- b) A meeting may also be called by a quorum (or more) of current members of the County Committee by a signed petition of the members calling the meeting. All members of the County Committee shall be notified of this meeting at least 5 days prior to the newly scheduled meeting.

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2.8. Notice of Meetings

- a) The Committee shall adopt a regular monthly meeting schedule. The agenda for each regularly scheduled meeting shall be posted or communicated at least 24 hours in advance.
- b) Any special meeting called by the Chairman must be announced at least three (3) days in advance of the commencement of that meeting.

2.9. Quorum for County Committee Meetings

Twenty-Five Percent (25%) of the Members of the County Committee, present by physical or virtual means after proper notice is given under Article II Section 8 shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business of the County Committee.

2.10. Proxies

- a) At any meeting of the County Committee, any member of the Committee shall have the right to vote by proxy given to any other Committee Member. Proxies shall use the Proxy Form, which may be written, emailed, texted, or GOP issued form. Any iteration of the proxy form must contain the name of the proxy carrier and the member granting their proxy, the date of the meeting for which the proxy is being granted, the proxy member's precinct, and the signature of the grantor. Completed Proxy Forms may be rendered to any member of the Executive Committee, but shall be rendered in hard copy prior to commencement of the meeting for which they are carried. Any proxy, if questioned, shall be verified within 72 hours.
- b) Committee Members may carry up to two proxies for any given meeting and may not carry more.
- c) A Committee Member may only grant their proxy twice per year.

2.11. Presiding Officer at County Committee Meetings

- a) The County Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the County Committee. In the absence of the County Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall preside.
- b) In the absence of both the Chairman and both Vice Chairmen of the County Committee, the Secretary of the County Committee shall preside.

2.12. Endorsements

The County Committee SHALL NOT endorse any Republican candidate in any primary. This does not prevent committee members from endorsing a candidate as an individual, but Committee Members may not represent their endorsement of a candidate from the standpoint as a member of the County Committee.

3. Article III: Officers of the County Committee

3.1. Officers

Officers of the County Committee shall be the County Chairman, Vice Chairman, 2nd Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chaplain; these six officers shall comprise the Executive Committee. Auxiliary officers may be appointed by the Executive Committee but will not carry a vote in the Executive Committee.

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3.2. Duties of the Executive Committee

- a) The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly upon the call of the County Chairman or any three (3) committee members thereof.
- b) The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the planning and development of the County Committee and the Republican Party of Fayette County. It shall have the full authority to act for the County Committee on matters delegated to it, and shall be in charge of all day-to-day administrative operations of the County Committee.

3.3. Eligibility for Office

Any County Committee member elected in accordance with the Article II Section 2 (eligibility requirements) shall be eligible to be elected as an officer of the County Committee.

3.4. Election and Appointments

The Executive Committee, made up of all the officers, shall be elected at the County Committee Organizational Meeting as referenced in Article II Section 6 and shall hold office until their respective successors have been duly elected.

3.5. Term

The Chairman and Vice Chairmen may serve for up to two (2) four-year terms lifetime; the Secretary, Treasurer, and Chaplain may serve more than two (2) terms. The terms of all elected and appointed officers shall expire at the conclusion of the organizational meeting following the fourth-year primary following their election or appointment.

3.6. Vacancies

- a) In the event of a vacancy in the office of County Chairman, the 1st Vice Chairman shall become the Chairman and the 2nd Vice Chairman shall become the 1st Chairman. The new County Chairman shall, within ten (10) days of said vacancy, give notice of a meeting of the County Committee for the purpose of electing a new County 2nd Vice Chairman; this meeting shall be scheduled no later than thirty (30) days following the vacancy.
- b) If the vacancy shall occur within ninety (90) days prior to the Organizational Meeting, no special meeting shall be called and the Vice Chairman shall serve as the Chairman until the election of a new County Chairman.
- c) In the event vacancies should occur in the offices of County Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Secretary or any member of the County Committee shall issue a call for a meeting for the purpose of electing a new County Chairman and Vice Chairmen, consistent with the provisions of Article III, Section 6(a). A County Chairman and Vice Chairman elected under this Section shall serve only for the unexpired term of the County Chairman and Vice Chairman whose vacancies are being filled.
- d) In the Event of a vacancy in any office of the County Committee other than the offices of County Chairman and Vice Chairmen, the County Chairman shall call for a special meeting for the purpose of electing a successor within thirty (30) days of the vacancy.
- e) The auxiliary treasurer shall automatically become the Treasurer in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Treasurer until a meeting can be called for the purpose of electing a new Treasurer.

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- f) In the event of a ballot opening for a County-level elected office more than twenty-eight (28) days from the ballot closure deadline, a special election will be called to select a replacement candidate. In the event the ballot opening occurs within twenty-eight (28) days of the ballot closure deadline, a replacement candidate will be selected at a County Committee meeting held prior to the ballot closure deadline by a majority vote of the quorum of those county committee members present at the meeting, including proxies.
- g) In the event of a ballot opening for a State-level elected office contained within the boundaries of Fayette County more than twenty-eight (28) days from the ballot closure deadline, a special election will be called to select a replacement candidate. In the event the ballot opening occurs within twenty-eight (28) days of the ballot closure deadline, a replacement candidate will be selected at a County Committee meeting held prior to the ballot closure deadline by a majority vote of the quorum made up of those county committee members residing in the affected precinct(s) present at the meeting, including proxies.
- h) If an elected state representative leaves office for any reason, a special election may or may not be called to replace the representative, depending on the time remaining in the term, as determined by the County Committee.

3.7. Pennsylvania State Law Supremacy

If any part of this section regarding the selection of replacement candidates for filling ballot vacancies conflicts with Pennsylvania state law, Pennsylvania state law shall supersede the conflicting section.

3.8. Duties of the County Chairman

The County Chairman shall:

- a) Act as the Chief Executive Officer of the Fayette County Republican Committee.
- b) Appoint subcommittees or persons as may be deemed necessary and appropriate for the conducting the affairs of the Fayette County Republican Committee.
- c) The Chairman is an Ex-Officio member of the County Committee and all subcommittees except to cast a tie-breaking vote; the chairman is not an Ex-Officio member of the Executive Committee during meetings thereof.
- d) The County Chairman shall serve as the Ambassador for the Fayette County Republican Committee and attend such meetings and events as deemed necessary to enhance the image and position of the Fayette County Republican Committee.

3.9. Duties of the Vice Chairman

The Vice Chairman shall assist the Chairman as the County Chairman shall designate and shall, in the event of a Vacancy in the Office of Chairman, serve as Chairman until the election of a new County Chairman.

3.10. Duties of the Secretary

The Secretary of the County Committee shall:

- a) Attend all meetings of the Executive Committee and County Committee.

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By-Laws of the Fayette County Republican Committee

Last Amended: 2023 September 14th

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- b) Ensure that the minutes of the proceedings of all committee meetings are documented and will render these documents to their successor
- c) Ensure that the Executive Committee members of the County Committee are furnished with the names and post office addresses of the current membership of the Executive Committee and County Committee.
- d) Preside at meetings in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairmen.
- e) Ensure that each member of the County Committee receives a complete copy of the Bylaws and amendments subsequently made.
- f) Provide hard copies of previous meeting minutes at each regularly scheduled meeting for passage by the County Committee.

3.11. Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer of the County Committee shall:

- a) Control all funds of the County Committee and shall pay out the same only at the direction of the County Chairman or Executive Committee.
- b) Keep records of all money received and paid out, with the date of such receipts and payments, from whom received, to whom paid, and for what purpose.
- c) File with the appropriate authorities all statements and reports required by both State and local Governments.
- d) At the end of their term, render to their successor all funds, books and other papers of the County Committee in his possession.

3.12. Bonding

To ensure the proper handling of Party funds, the Chairman and Treasurer shall be bonded at amounts determined by the Executive Committee.

4. Article IV: State Committee Members

4.1. Membership

- a) The Chairman of the Fayette County Republican Committee shall serve as a member of the State Committee according to Article II Section 3(a) of the State Committee Rules adopted February 12, 1994 or amended.
- b) Other members of the State Committee shall be elected in accordance with Article II Section 3(b) of the State Committee Rules adopted February 12, 1997 or as amended.

4.2. Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy in any office of the State Committee Member from Fayette County, the County Committee shall fill the vacancy using the procedure in Article II Section 3(b) by appointment of a Republican elector who meets all of the requirements for election to such office to fill the remainder of the term in accordance with Article II Section 14 of the State Committee Rules adopted February 12, 1997, or as amended.

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5. Article V: Removal or Resignation of Committee Members

5.1. Grounds for Removal

The following shall be grounds for removing a person from membership of the County Committee, or from any position as an officer of the County Committee:

- a) Not being a qualified Republican elector of the precinct from which the County Committee member was elected or appointed.
- b) Neglecting or refusing to attend to the duties of their position
- c) Absence from three (3) regular monthly meetings within a floating one-year period without just cause as deemed by the Executive Committee may be cause for removal.
- d) Violations of any Federal, State, or Local law regarding political discourse, elections, and campaign activities. A felonious conviction of any kind is grounds for immediate removal, as such would result in incarceration and inability to perform the duties outlined in Article II, Section 5.
- e) Being found guilty of seriously unethical behavior which includes, but is not limited to:
 - Performing duties not delegated to the member, such as:
 - spending committee funds without explicit authorization by the Executive Committee
 - speaking on behalf of the County Committee without the committee's consent
 - Attempting to subvert or derail the administration of the Fayette County Republican Committee, such as:
 - Misrepresenting statements made by the committee in speaking to the media or the public
 - Speaking to the media as a committee spokesperson (not as an individual) without direct authorization from the Executive Committee to do so
 - Attempting to prevent any Republican elector meeting the eligibility requirements for County Committee Membership from seeking appointment as defined in Article II, Section 2, and Article II, Section 3.
 - Supporting non-Republican candidates that do not meet the criteria set forth in Article II, Section 5(b).
 - Disseminating personally identifiable information (PII) as defined by the United States Department of Labor (DOL) of any County Committee Member without their express written consent (commonly known as doxing); this must be substantiated by a police report.
 - Attempting to damage a committee member's employment and professional relationships; this must be substantiated by a police report.

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5.2. Procedure for Removal

This process shall apply equally to all County Committee members, elected and appointed.

- a) Any Republican Committee Member shall be able to bring a complaint alleging a violation of Article 5 Section 1. The complaint shall be made to the Executive Board in writing, be signed by the Complainant and must be specific enough to reasonably inform the Executive Committee and Respondent of the exact nature of the charges. Anonymous complaints shall not be accepted. If, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, a complaint is not specific enough, it shall be returned to the Complainant for clarification, more specificity and re-filing at the discretion of the complainant.
- b) Grievances will be heard by the Executive Committee. A majority decision will be rendered within ten (10) days of any hearing. The Executive Committee's decision is binding unless appealed to the committee body by a petition of a quorum of the County Committee at the next regularly-scheduled meeting and shall be added accordingly to that meeting agenda. The ruling may be overturned with a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the County Committee members.

6. Article VI: Amendments to the Articles

6.1. Amendments to the Bylaws

The foregoing bylaws may be amended from time to time by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote in the affirmative by the members of the County Committee present physically or virtually and voting at any meeting of the County Committee at one meeting and voted on at the next meeting. Amendments may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by a written motion of ten (10) members of the County Committee and delivered to the Executive Committee.

7. Article VII: Adoption and Repeal

7.1. Adoption

These Rules shall go into effect immediately after approval by the County Committee per Article VI, Section 1, the review by a solicitor, and all required filings have been accepted and confirmed by the Secretary of the State GOP and the Fayette County Election Bureau.

7.2. Repealed Sections

All Rules, Regulations, and Resolutions heretofore regulating or purporting to regulate or govern the Republican Party and the Republican County Committee in and for Fayette County, Pennsylvania, are hereby repealed.

8. Article VIII: Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order (revised) shall be the parliamentary Authority at all meetings under the Bylaws of the Fayette County Republican Committee.

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Bylaws of the Fayette County Republican Committee

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