

## **AMENDED AND RESTATED 2025 MCRC CONVENTION RULES**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MERCER COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE ADOPTING RULES TO GOVERN THE 2025 MERCER COUNTY REPUBLICAN CONVENTION:**

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Republican Convention is scheduled for Monday, March 3, 2025 at Ancient Order Of Hibernians, located at 2419 Kuser Road, Hamilton Township, Mercer County, New Jersey NJ 08691 at 6 PM (Check in), 7:00 PM Start Time, at which time candidates for State and County Offices will be selected for nomination; and WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IX of the Constitution of the Mercer County Republican Committee, upon review, consideration and revision of the Rules proposed by the Rules Committee, the Executive Board has adopted the following Rules by which said Convention shall be governed; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Committee of the Mercer County Republican Committee, that the following Convention Rules and Procedures shall be and are hereby ADOPTED:

1. Owing to venue capacity, only delegates and candidates will be permitted access to the convention.
2. The Mercer County Republican Convention shall be held at least three (3) days prior to the deadline for filing. A notice of said Convention shall be sent to each delegate by email for whom an address is available. It is therefore incumbent on each committee member to ensure that the County Committee Chair be notified of delegates' current email address. Delegates to the Convention shall include: All Municipal Chairs; all members of the Municipal Committees, all elected Republican political office holders and elected office holders who are registered Republicans residing in Mercer County and all duly elected or appointed members of the Mercer County Republican Executive Committee. Any member of the County Executive Committee appointed to that position pursuant to the Constitution of the Mercer County Republican Committee must have been appointed prior to the seventh calendar day preceding the convention.
3. The Mercer County Republican Convention shall require a quorum of at least 20% of the total number of authorized delegates to the Convention.
4. At least seven (7) days prior to the Convention, all interested candidates, except for Governor candidates, shall file a Declaration of Intent in writing with the County Chair. The County Chair shall certify the timely receipt of the Declarations of Intent.

The use of the Mercer County, Regular Organization Republican Slogan shall be determined by the Chair who shall consider the results of the convention.

5. At the Convention all candidates shall be nominated from the floor by a delegate. All nominations shall require a minimum of three (3) seconds. The three (3) seconds shall be made without comment other than self-identification. Delegates may nominate or second only one candidate for any particular office. A nominating delegate may yield the floor for the purpose of nominating speeches. Nominating speeches shall be limited to two (2) minutes each. One delegate may be given one (1) minute to second the nominating speech.

6. Each person who has been nominated from the floor or his/her representative, will be given six (6) minutes to address the Convention. The order of address shall be determined by the order of nomination. If, however, only one person is nominated for a particular office, the nominating speech will be limited to one (1) minute and the nominees will be given three (3) minutes to address the Convention.

7. Voting shall be by secret ballot, provided that the Chair may order a voice vote for such office when only one nominee has been named. Offices to be filled by more than one candidate require individual votes. Only those delegates resident in the specific district (Federal, State or Local) may participate in the vote for that district. All delegates eligible to vote for a particular position shall do so in person when ballots are being cast for that position. If a delegate is not present at the Convention when a particular vote takes place, then the delegate shall not vote. The County Chair shall determine the order in which elected positions shall be voted on by the Convention.

8. Any person, other than office of Governor, who has submitted a Declaration of Intent seven (7) or more days prior to the Convention and who shall have received the most votes of the delegates to the Mercer County Convention present and voting (a plurality of the votes cast for the position sought) shall be deemed to have been endorsed to that position and therefore entitled to carry the Mercer County, Regular Organization Republican designation on the primary ballot. In cases where there are two or more positions to be filled for a single office, such as Board of Commissioners, the Mercer County, Regular Organization Republican place designation on the primary ballot shall be in order of votes received. Votes will thus be cast for candidates as individuals rather than slates. In the case of the office of Governor, the voting shall be a Preference Poll. Each delegate to the Mercer County Convention present and voting shall vote for one Governor candidate. The three Gubernatorial candidates with the most votes shall be entitled to carry the Mercer County, Regular Organization Republican designation on the primary ballot.

9. Any person who shall have been nominated from the floor, but who had not filed a declaration of intent shall be endorsed if he or she receives at least 60% of the votes cast for that position.

This requirement is not applicable to candidates to office of Governor who are not required a declaration of intent who are included in the Preference Poll.

10. All candidates entitled to appear with the Slogan must sign a request for use of the Slogan.

11. The County Chair shall maintain all authority granted under the laws of the State of New Jersey and by these Rules. If a quorum is not present at the Convention, the Chair may nevertheless declare that the Convention shall proceed with the nomination process in accordance with the same procedural Rules which would apply to a meeting at which a quorum were present, provided that the result of the nominating and voting process would be a recommendation to the Chair by the majority of those voting. The Chair shall be vested with the discretion to take the recommendation vote into consideration along with all relevant factors in making the final selection of the nominees for each position on behalf of the Mercer County Republican Committee.

12. For the purpose of nomination, recommendation and endorsement of party candidates, there is hereby established the following: (a) a Rules Committee: **Frank Lay and Joe Stillwell**. (b) a Credentials Committee: **Denise Peck, Hillary Jersey, Christin Cerullo, Cat Taefner and Sandra Chadwick** (c) a Ballot Committee: **Gino Melone**. Note: Municipal committee members entitled to vote will be those who appear on the County Clerk's public list of Mercer County municipal committees no later than three days prior to the convention.

13. All members and chairs of each committee in paragraph 12 shall be appointed by the Chair.

14. The County Chair shall chair the Convention. The Executive Committee hereby approves the Chair's appointment of (**Frank Lay**) as Convention Parliamentarian. The Chairperson of the Convention may establish committees or subcommittees as he or she deems appropriate.

15. Any objection to a determination by the Credentials Committee and/or the Rules Committee shall be made to the Convention Chairperson prior to the start of nominating and seconding speeches. The objecting party or its designee shall have two (2) minutes to state its position; a representative of the appropriate Committee shall have two (2) minutes to respond; and the decision of the Convention Chairperson shall be final and binding. In no event shall an objection be decided by the Convention as a whole.

16. In the event that any candidate elected by the Mercer County Convention resigns, dies or fails to qualify after such selection and prior to the primary election and/or the establishment of a Vacancy Committee, the County Chair shall use her discretion in filling the vacancy so created. A vacancy occurring after the primary election shall be filled in accordance with State law.

17. The offices to be governed by the 2025 Convention Rules are:

- Governor
- State Assembly LD-14 (2)
- State Assembly LD-15 (2)
- State Assembly LD-16 (2)
- County Clerk (1)
- Mercer County Board of Commissioners (2)
- State Committeewoman (1)
- State Committeeman (1)

18. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th Edition shall govern in the absence of a clear provision to the contrary herein or the MCRC Constitution.

19. Mercer County Republican Committee Convention Rules for the 2025 Convention shall be posted only on: [Mercernjgop.com](http://Mercernjgop.com)

Adopted at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Mercer County Republican Committee, February 13, 2025.

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Patricia Johnson, Chair  
Mercer County Republican Committee