

## **2023 MCRC Convention Rules**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MERCER COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE ADOPTING RULES TO GOVERN THE 2023 MERCER COUNTY REPUBLICAN CONVENTION:**

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Republican Convention is scheduled for 7:00 P.M., Thursday, March 16, 2023 at St. George's Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church Hall, 839 Yardville Allentown Road, Hamilton, NJ, 08620, 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 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 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 day preceding the convention.
3. The Selection of Candidates at 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 shall file a Declaration of Intent in writing with the County Chair. The order of appearance in the Regular Organization Republican Column shall be determined by the Chair who shall consider the results of the convention. The County Chair shall certify the timely receipt of the Declarations of Intent.
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 nominee 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 (Legislative or Congressional) 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 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 elected to that position and therefore entitled to carry the 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 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.

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

10. All candidates entitled to appear in the Regular Organization Republican Column must sign a request for ballot position. Positions for multiple candidates for a single office shall be determined by the County Chair who shall consider the number of votes received by such candidates at the Convention.

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 selection of party candidates, there is hereby established the following: (a) a Rules Committee: Dudley Sippelle and Marty Jennings, Esq. (b) a Credentials Committee: Dudley Sippelle, Sherry Sinatra and Denise Peck Simon and Frank Ragazzo. (c) a Ballot Committee: Marty Jennings, Esq., Charles Farina, Cynthia Simon and Edward Hoffman, Esq. 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. The Executive Committee shall establish the rules for each committee.

14. The County Chair shall chair the Convention. The Executive Committee hereby approves the Chair's appointment of XXXXX as Convention Parliamentarian. The Chairperson of the Convention may establish committees or sub-committees 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 his or 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 elected offices to be governed by the 2023 Convention Rules are:

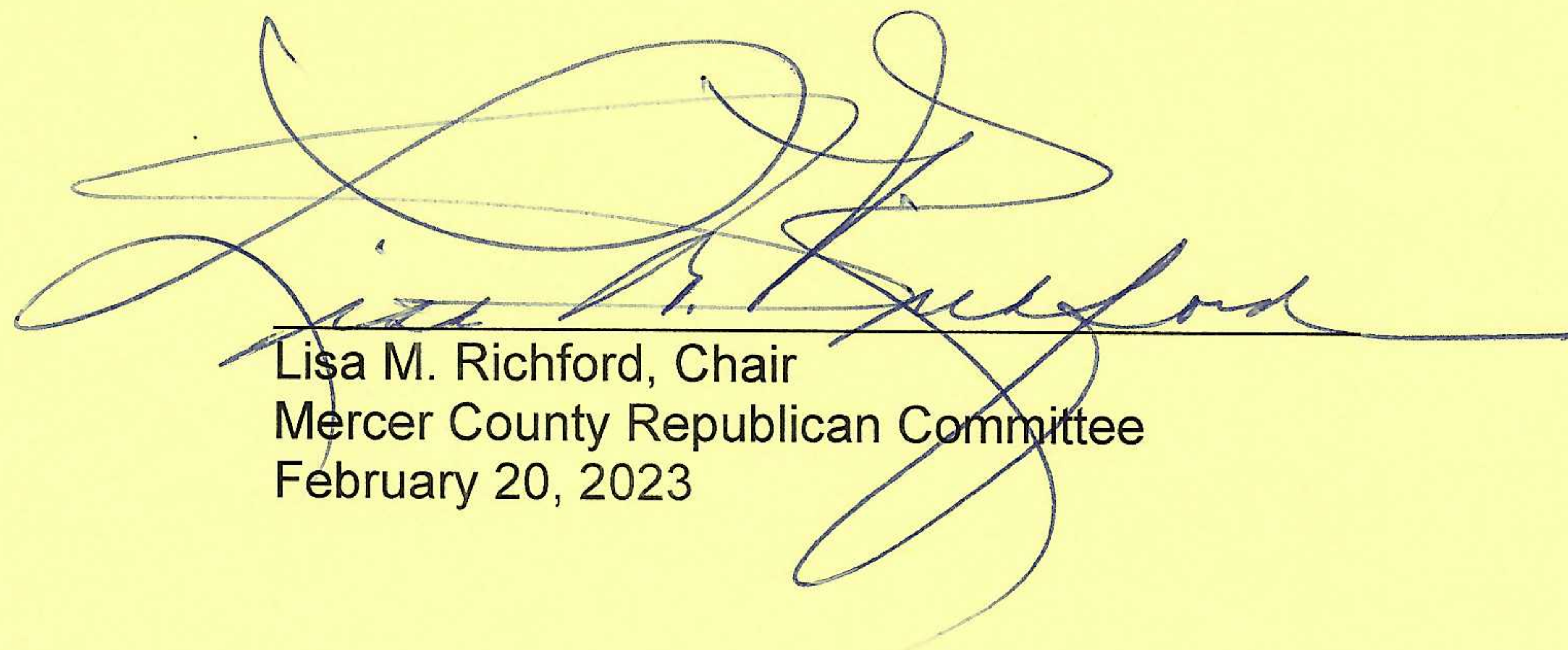
- NJ Senate LD-16
- NJ Assembly LD-16 (2)
- NJ Senate LD-15
- NJ Assembly LD-15 (2)
- NJ Senate LD-14
- NJ Assembly LD-14 (2)
- Mercer County Executive
- Mercer County Sheriff
- Mercer County Board of Commissioners (2)

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 2023 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 20, 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa M. Richford', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with large loops and flourishes.

Lisa M. Richford, Chair  
Mercer County Republican Committee  
February 20, 2023