

Proposed 2025 WASHINGTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY BYLAWS

June 24, 2025

Article I

Name and Purpose

Section 1. This organization is the Washington County Republican Party and will be referred to as the WCRP throughout this document.

Section 2. The purposes of the WCRP shall be to promote Republican ideals, values, and Republican elected officials across Tennessee. These purposes include, but are not limited to, promoting Republican principles, electing Republican candidates to office on the national, state and local levels; recruiting Republican candidates to run for office; assisting the Tennessee Republican Party and other Republican organizations at the state and local levels in carrying out their purposes; raising funds for election campaigns and other Republican purposes; recruiting membership in the Republican Party; increasing public awareness of the Republican position on public issues; and fostering good citizenship in general.

Article II

County Executive Committee

Section 1. The affairs of the WCRP shall be governed by the County Executive Committee (“CEC”) in accordance with the Tennessee Republican Party (“TRP”) Bylaws and Rules, the Republican National Committee (“RNC”) Rules, and these Bylaws.

Section 2. The CEC shall consist of the Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Third Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Treasurer, immediate Past Chair, all State Executive Committee members representing the county, the President of the Washington County Federated Republican Women club (“WCFRW”) and the Chair of the Washington County Young Republicans (“WCYR”) and the presidents of any Washington County State Recognized Auxiliary Organization in accordance with TRP Bylaws Article IX, Section 1.A.3.. In the absence of a TNFRW club or YR group in the county, a representative of those constituencies may be appointed to the CEC by the TRP Chair.

A. The Vice Chair shall be of the opposite sex of the Chair and will automatically assume the duties of the Chair in his/her absence.

B. Should one person hold more than one position on the CEC, such person will have a total of only one vote on matters before the CEC.

C. In the event that the county has more than one TFRW club, the TFRW president to serve on the CEC will be determined in accordance with Article VIII, Section 3, of the TRP Bylaws and Rules.

Section 3. Neither the CEC as a body, nor the County Chair, shall endorse any Republican candidate in a contested primary election for local, state, or national elections. This Section shall not apply to a Chair in a primary election in which the Chair, his/her spouse, or his/her immediate family member is a candidate.

Section 4. Members of the CEC are expected to attend every meeting. Three successive absences of any locally elected CEC member from a regularly called meeting (those set at the beginning of the year as required by these Bylaws) without a valid reason are grounds for removal from the CEC. CEC members shall individually notify the chair with reason prior to meeting. To avoid any doubt, this does not apply to SEC members.

Section 5. In the event that the CEC desires to remove a member for any reason whatsoever, the County Party Chairman shall consult with and receive written approval from the TRP Chairman prior to any such removal and shall ensure that any procedural requirements set forth in the TRP Bylaws and Rules and instructions of the TRP Chairman have been met.

Article III

Election of Officers

Section 1. Election of officers to the CEC shall be made in accordance with TRP Bylaws and Rules. Officers are elected at county reorganizations held between January 15 and April 15 of each odd numbered year. Any supplemental rules for the County Reorganization Convention must be sent to the TRP chair prior to January 1st of the year in which the County Reorganization Convention will be held.

Section 2. In the event of the death, resignation, or moving out of the county by an officer, the CEC shall proceed to elect a new officer to fulfill the remainder of the term. The vacancy shall be filled at either a regularly called or special called meeting of the CEC within thirty (30) days after such vacancy occurs. If the office to fill is the Chairman or Treasurer, the

First Vice-Chairman or Vice Treasurer, respectively, shall automatically assume the duties of the office until the CEC elects a replacement. Should the CEC elect a current CEC officer to fill the vacancy, the subsequent vacancy(ies) must be filled at that meeting as well.

Section 3. No CEC members, with the exception of the SEC Committee members, shall serve more than two (2) full consecutive terms in the same position.

Article IV

Meetings

Section 1. The CEC shall set its schedule at the beginning of each year prior to January 31st. The CEC shall meet at least quarterly in non-election years and shall meet monthly during election years.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or by one third (1/3) of the CEC provided that at least seven (7) days electronic notice of such meeting is given to the CEC members.

Section 3. A quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the CEC shall consist of a simple majority of the voting members of the CEC.

Section 4. Telephone and Electronic Participation

- A. CEC members may participate in meetings and vote on matters discussed therein, by means of a conference telephone or similar Communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in such meeting can hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute in person presence of the CEC member at the meeting.
- B. The presence of a quorum shall be established by roll call at the beginning of the electronic meeting and on the demand of any member. Such a demand may be made following the departure of any member, or following the taking of any vote for which the announced totals add to less than a quorum.
- C. CEC members may participate in electronic communications (emails and/or texts) when the Chair determines an item is time sensitive. The motion must be presented in writing, and seconded. The CEC members will be given at least 48 hours to vote after the question has been emailed. At the end of the 48 hours, if a quorum has been met with votes cast, voting will cease. The Secretary shall record the results of the electronic vote and notify the full CEC of the results. Any electronic (email and/or text) voting decision will be ratified at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Actions regarding Election of

officers, amendments to the Bylaws and removal of CEC members or officers shall not be done by electronic vote.

Article V

Officers' Duties

Section 1. The County Chair shall be the chief executive of the WCRP and of the CEC and shall be responsible for:

- A. Managing the affairs of the CEC.
- B. Coordinating the political activities of the WCRP.
- C. Preserving order and decorum at all meetings.
- D. Appointing all committee chairs, to include standing and special committees.

In addition, the County Chair shall have the right to vote on any motion before the CEC but may reserve their vote to break any ties.

Section 2. The First Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the County Chair in the absence of the County Chair. In the absence of the Chair, sequential elected Vice Chairs shall preside.

Section 3. The Secretary shall take the minutes of each meeting of the CEC. If the Secretary must be absent from such a meeting, the Secretary shall be responsible for obtaining a replacement. In the absence of a replacement, the Chair will appoint a secretary for that meeting.

The Secretary shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the County Chair. All records of the Secretary shall be and remain the property of the CEC.

In addition, the secretary shall be responsible for transmitting material relevant to the TRP and the WCRP via electronic communication in a timely manner. Such material shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Announcements regarding the WCRP biennial reorganization.
- B. WCRP bylaw changes or quadrennial bylaws submissions.

C. Local candidate nomination decisions (as per Rule H of TRP Bylaws and Rules).

D. Vacancies and the election of county party officers.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining bank accounts for all financial activities of the WCRP and implementing an internal system of financial controls. They shall be responsible for counting and depositing money received by the WCRP and for reviewing and reconciling the bank statement. The Treasurer shall report at each regular or special meeting of the CEC on the balance of the bank account and all receipts and disbursements since the previous meeting. All records of the Treasurer shall be and remain the property of the CEC.

The Treasurer shall submit a treasurer's report to the TRP twice a year: a) on or before the first Monday of April, and b) on or before the second Monday of September.

Section 5. The Vice-Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in performing their duties and immediately assume the role of interim Treasurer in the event the position becomes vacant.

Section 6. If a CEC member is derelict in their duties they may be adjudicated according to Rule G of the TRP Bylaws.

Article VI

Committees

Section 1. These shall be the standing committees of the WCRP. Special committees may be added as needed by the Chair.

A. Bylaws and Rules: The duties of the Bylaws and Rules Committee shall include, but are not limited to, updating and improving our current governing documents in accordance with TRP Bylaws updates.

B. Communications: The duties of the Communications Committee shall include, but are not limited to, running of all social media accounts, making and running of the website, compiling a list to include contact information for all eligible members, sending out emails of events, compiling a calendar of events.

C. Elections: The duties of the Elections Committee shall include, but are not limited to, recruiting candidates to run for office, helping candidates with filing for office, running a county party campaign office, helping candidates secure volunteers for their campaigns.

D. Events: The duties of the Events Committee shall include but are not limited to, overseeing all events to include, the annual Lincoln Day Dinner, the annual Reagan Day Picnic, the Jonesborough Days Parade, Spaghetti Dinners and any other social events.

E. Finance and Budget: The duties of the Finance and Budget Committee shall include, but are not limited to, assisting in the development and approval of a budget, and overseeing financial matters of the WCRP. The Treasurer and Vice Treasurer are automatic members of this committee.

F. Legislative Issues: The duties of the Legislative Issues Committee shall include but is not limited to, watching legislation at the city, county, state and national levels and reporting back to our executive committee.

G. Membership and Fundraising: The duties of the Membership and Fundraising Committee shall include but are not limited to, helping to raise money for the WCRP, working with events planning committee for common events.

Article VII

Finance

Section 1. Expenditure of funds for unbudgeted items equal to or less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) may be made upon written approval of two (2) of the following: The Chair, the First Vice Chair, or the Treasurer.

Section 2. The following CEC officers shall be listed as authorized signers on the WCRP bank account: The Chair, the First Vice Chair, and the Treasurer.

Section 3. All campaign contributions, including donations of goods or services, shall fall within the current state and federal laws and regulations regarding campaign contributions.

Section 4. The WCRP is classified as a State Political Action Committee and as such will maintain the required filings and financial reporting of a State Political Action Committee.

Article VIII

Bona Fide Republicans/Party Membership

The TRP Bylaws and Rules set forth TRP membership requirements as well as requirements for candidacy to party leadership and public office. The WCRP defers to the TRP Bylaws for all

issues concerning the rights of membership and its privileges, including without limitation, the right to qualify and run for party leadership and/or public office.

Article IX

Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority of the full voting membership of the CEC at any meeting between February 1st and July 31st of odd numbered years, provided that notice of the meeting at which the vote is to be taken includes a copy of any proposed amendments. Any changes or amendments to these Bylaws are subject to approval by the Bylaws Subcommittee of the TRP State Executive Committee (“SEC”) and the Chair of the TRP. These bylaws will take effect upon written approval by the SEC Bylaws committee.

Article X

Conformity

These Bylaws are intended to be in conformity with the TRP Bylaws and Rules, the RNC Rules, governing federal and Tennessee statutes, rules, and regulations. From time to time, the TRP may adopt new or make amendments to the TRP Bylaws and Rules, in which case the CEC shall promptly take such actions as is necessary to bring these Bylaws into conformance therewith.

Article XI

Recognition of Auxiliary Organizations

Section 1. The WCRP shall maintain a list of all recognized auxiliary Republican organizations within Washington County. Such list shall be submitted to the State Chairman prior to each biennial reorganization convention.

Section 2. Federated Clubs – Any club that is properly chartered and recognized by the Tennessee Federation of Republican Women, the Tennessee Young Republicans Federation, Inc., or the Tennessee Federation of College Republicans shall be recognized by the WCRP as a Recognized Auxiliary Organization.

Section 3. Requirements for Designation as a Recognized Auxiliary Organization: Any other, non-federated club that endorses and supports the purposes of the WCRP and the TRP wishing to be designated as a Recognized Auxiliary Organization (RAO) shall complete and file

an application for recognition with the CEC of the WCRP. To be considered for recognition as an RAO, such organizations shall meet the following requirements:

- A. The organization shall be based in Washington County and allow Washington County residents membership; and
- B. Have an espoused mission of supporting the Republican Party, its objectives, its platforms, and Republican candidates; and
- C. Have adopted bylaws that are not in conflict with the WCRP, the TRP, or the National Republican Party; and
- D. Have elected officers who qualify as “bona fide” Republicans as defined by the TRP bylaws; and
- E. No RAO shall officially endorse a candidate in a contested Republican primary election. No RAO shall officially endorse or support in any way a Democrat or other non-Republican candidate in any election for which a Republican has filed as a candidate. A statement or provision regarding these prohibitions on endorsements shall be included in the bylaws or governing rules for the organization; and
- F. Shall have been in continuous existence for a period of not less than Three (3) years prior to the date of their application for recognition.

Section 4. Organizations seeking designation as an RAO shall submit, in writing, a letter to the WCRP Chairman requesting recognition along with the following required documentation:

- A. A copy of the organization’s bylaws and/or other rules of governance; and
- B. A listing of all current officers and/or board members along with contact information and term expiration dates; and
- C. A roster of their current, active, dues-paying members. For organizations that do not require the payment of dues for membership, the organization shall submit copies of attendance rosters for all meetings and/or events which the organization has hosted in the past 12-month period.

Following the receipt of a request for recognition of an auxiliary organization, the CEC shall examine the request and conduct any research deemed necessary to verify the submitted information. The CEC may undertake the research as a whole, the Chairman may designate a CEC member to be tasked with the research, or the Chairman may appoint a special committee to conduct such research and report back to the full CEC.

A majority vote of the total number of CEC members shall be required to approve any request for designation as an RAO. If a majority vote affirms recognition of the applicant organization as an RAO, such information obtained on the organization, including the application packet, shall be submitted to the State Chairman along with a letter signed by the WCRP Chairman requesting the State Chairman approve the designation of the organization as a Recognized

Auxiliary Organization of the WCRP. If the majority vote denies designation as an RAO, the organization shall be informed by the WCRP Chairman. A letter shall be submitted to the State Chairman informing the State Chairman of the denial of recognition, along with the grounds for the denial. The organization may re-apply for designation as an RAO after a period of one (1) calendar year (12 months) has passed from the date of the vote to deny designation as an RAO.

Section 5. Review of Recognized Auxiliary Organizations. The CEC shall review the current list of Recognized Auxiliary Organizations annually at a CEC meeting held during the fourth quarter of the calendar year. The CEC shall request each RAO to submit the following documentation for the annual review process:

- A. A copy of the organization's bylaws and/or other rules of governance; and
- B. A listing of all current officers and/or board members along with contact information and term expiration dates; and
- C. A roster of their current, active, dues-paying members. For organizations that do not require the payment of dues for membership, the organization shall submit copies of attendance rosters for all meetings and/or events which the organization has hosted in the past 12-month period.

The required documentation must be submitted to the CEC by the RAO on or before August 31 of each year. Failure to submit the required documentation by the deadline can lead to the revocation of the organization's status as a Recognized Auxiliary Organization.

Section 6. Revocation of status as a Recognized Auxiliary Organization –

During the annual review of Recognized Auxiliary Organizations, if the CEC finds the organization no longer meets the qualifying standards set forth in these bylaws, the CEC may by a majority vote of the full number of CEC members revoke the status from the organization. If the organization has a voting seat on the CEC, that member shall abstain from such a vote for cause.

In between annual reviews of the RAO list, the CEC shall have the authority to review the status of any recognized organization if it is believed the organization has ceased to comply with the requirements for designation as an RAO or if it is believed the organization fails to comply with the goals and mission of the Republican Party by any of the following:

- A. Endorsing or supporting in any way a Democrat or other non-Republican candidate in any election in which a Republican candidate has filed as a candidate. This provision shall not apply to non-partisan elections.
- B. Election of leadership/officers / board members who do not meet the standard of "bona fide" Republican as defined by the TRP bylaws.

C. Any action deemed to be in conflict with the mission and goals of the Republican Party at either the local, state, or national level; or any action deemed detrimental to the Republican Party or its reputation.

Such review may be initiated by a request in writing signed by any voting Member of Officer of the CEC and submitted to the Chairman, a majority vote of the CEC during a regular or special called meeting, or by direction of the WCRP Chairman.

In the event a review is called for outside of the regular annual review process, the CEC shall reach out to the ranking officer for the organization to discuss the reason(s) the review was called for. The CEC shall investigate any and all claim(s) put forth in the call for review and shall present such findings to the full CEC and the ranking officer of the organization. Upon a majority vote by the CEC, the CEC may revoke the status of the organization as a RAO for cause. If the organization has a voting seat on the CEC, that member shall abstain from such vote for cause. If the CEC votes to revoke RAO status, the WCRP Chairman shall submit, in writing, a letter to the ranking officer of the organization informing them of the CEC's findings and reason for revocation. The WCRP Chairman shall also submit a letter to the State Chairman informing him of the CEC's findings and reason for the revocation along with a request to have the state withdraw recognized status from the organization.

Any organization whose status as an RAO has been revoked pursuant to these bylaws may not reapply for recognized status for a period of two (2) calendar years (24 months) from the date of the vote to revoke the organization's status as an RAO. To reapply for recognition, the organization must meet all required qualifications for recognition set forth in these bylaws, must submit all required documentation, and must also submit an action report detailing how the findings of the revocation hearing have been addressed and what protective measures were instituted to prevent the same findings from occurring again.

Article XII

Robert's Rules

The most recent revised edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all proceedings on matters not specifically covered by these Bylaws or the TRP Bylaws and Rules.