

BY – LAWS
OF
THE SENECA COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

AMENDED AND ADOPTED: September 19, 2005

RECEIVED
NEW YORK STATE
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ALBANY, NEW YORK
2005 OCT -6 AM 9:42

RULE I CONSTRUCTION

1. The Republican Party of the County of Seneca shall be constituted of the votes enrolled as members of the Republican Party in the County of Seneca.
2. The Representative Committee persons of the Republican Party in and for the County of Seneca, New York, shall be the County Committee.
3. In addition to the County Committee, there may be Special Committees created and there shall be created, as hereinafter provided, the following sub-committees:
 - a. A County Executive Committee;
 - b. A County Campaign Committee;
 - c. A Town Committee for each Town;
 - d. A District Committee;
 - e. A Committee on Finance.

RULE II COUNTY COMMITTEE

1. **Unit Representation:**
The unit of representation for the election of members of the County Committee shall be the election district.
2. **Election of Members:**
There shall be elected biannually in odd numbered years, as prescribed by law, in and for each election district of the County, two (2) members of the County Committee, to serve terms of two (2) years. Members of the State Committee residing in Seneca County shall be ex-officio members of the County Committee.
3. **Vacancies:**
 1. In the case of the death, declination, enrollment in another party, removal from the unit or removal from office of a member of the committee, or the failure to elect a member, as by reason of a tie vote, the vacancy created thereby shall be filled by the remaining members of the committee by the selection of an enrolled voter of the party qualified for election.

2. In the event a vacancy occurs or vacancies occur as the result of the creation of a new district after a Primary Election, County Committee members who reside in such new district shall be appointed to represent such district. Additional vacancies shall be filled as provided in the preceding paragraph.

4. **Duties:**

Each member of the County Committee shall:

- a. Endeavor to cause canvasses to be made before each official primary and each election, of all electors within his or her election district.
- b. Endeavor to have all Republican voters in his or her district register to vote.
- c. Recommend for appointment to the Chairperson of the County Committee, candidates for watchers and challengers for his or her district.
- d. Furnish such information and perform such other duties as are prescribed by law, the rules of the Committee, the Executive Committee, and the officers of the County Committee and the Campaign Committee.
- e. Designate candidates for delegates and alternate delegates to State and Judicial District Conventions.

5. **Officers and Their Duties:**

- a. **Officers:** The officers of the County Committee shall be a Chairperson, two (2) Vice-Chairpersons, Secretary and Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected at the organizational meeting of the committee. Such officers shall be residents of Seneca County and enrolled members of the Republican Party, but need not be a member of the County Committee.
- b. **Chairperson:** The Chairperson of the County Committee, in addition to the duties imposed upon him by law, shall be charged with the duty and have the power to direct and manage all campaigns within the County for Federal, State and County officers, and subject to the rules of the Committee, such other powers and duties as shall from time to time be

conferred upon him. He or she shall also preside at all meetings and possess the general powers of the presiding officer. He shall be an ex officio member of all sub-committees.

- c. **Vice-Chairpersons:** The Vice-Chairpersons shall perform the duties of the Chairperson as set forth in paragraph "Section 6" of this rule, and such other duties as may be assigned to them by the County Committee or the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairpersons shall be ex officio members of all sub-committees.
- d. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep a full and accurate account of all proceedings of the Committee and shall file and preserve all written reports of the County Committee, shall be responsible for the preparation and filing of all reports required by law, except those which have to do with financial, or which by law are required to be filed by some other officer, shall perform such other duties as the County Chairperson may require, and shall perform the duties of the Chairperson as set forth in "Section 6" of this rule.
- e. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the County Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of funds for party purposes in and for the County, subject to the direction and approval of the County Chairperson. The Treasurer shall receive and hold in trust all funds of the County Committee and see that such funds are properly disbursed. He shall file with the proper officers, or agencies, all financial reports and statements required by law of the County Committee, and the Treasurer shall perform such other duties as the County Chairperson may require. The Treasurer shall be required to be bonded in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), the cost of which shall be paid from the funds of the County Committee.

- 6. **Absence of Chairperson:**
In the absence or disability of the Chairperson, his or her duties shall be performed jointly by the Vice-Chairpersons, by one of them if the other is absent or disabled, or by the Secretary, if both Vice-Chairpersons are absent or

disabled.

7. **Organizational Meetings:**
The meeting of the County Committee for the purpose of organization shall be held not later than twenty (20) days after the Primary Election at which the members of the Committee shall have been elected. This meeting shall be called by the Chairperson or, in the event of failure on his or her part to do so, by the Secretary of the retiring Committee, and the Secretary of the retiring committee shall call to order and preside over such meeting until a chairperson shall be elected.
8. **Special Meetings:**
All other meeting shall be special meetings. Special meetings of the County Committee may be called at such time and place as the Chairperson of such committee shall direct or upon the written order of ten (10) members. The Secretary shall give to each member of the committee at least forty-eight (48) hours notice in writing of such meeting to be served personally or by mail.
9. **Voting:**
Each member of the County Committee shall be entitled to cast one vote for each Republican vote cast for Governor at the last preceding election in his or her district, as provided by the Election Law.
10. **Quorum:**
A quorum of the County Committee shall consist of a majority of all votes which may be cast by all members of the committee.
11. **Resignation:**
All resignations shall be tendered in writing, addressed to the County Committee Chairperson.

**RULE III
REMOVAL OF COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS OR OFFICERS**

1. **Convening a Hearing:**
Any County Committee member or the Chair, Secretary or Treasurer of the County Committee may be removed by the County Committee for disloyalty to the party or corruption in office, upon petition upon written charges filed with

the Secretary, after notice is given and a hearing has been conducted. The Hearing shall be held by a Special Committee composed of members of the Executive Committee. In the case of petition the Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer, the Special Committee shall be composed of an odd number of no less than three (3) nor more than seven (7) members of the Executive Committee who shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair. In the case of a hearing regarding removal of the Chair, Secretary or Treasurer, the Special Committee shall be composed of the entire Executive Committee.

2. **Definitions:**

For the purposes of this Article, the term:

- a. “disloyalty” shall include, but not be limited to, a failure of a member to participate in party activities for over eight (8) months, or to attend meetings of the County Republican Committee in person for more than one (1) year, or other failure to perform substantially the duties of office, or enrollment in another party, or a public endorsement of a candidate running against a nominated Republican candidate, and shall exclude honest differences of opinion.
- b. “notice” means a written statement of the charges or issues of concern, along with the date, time and location of the hearing, either hand-delivered to the officer or committee member in question or mailed, regular and certified mail (return receipt requested), to the last address listed in the records of the County Committee for the officer or committee member in question, at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled hearing date. Notice by mail shall be effective when mailed, regardless of receipt.
- c. “corruption” shall include, but not be limited to, the taking or omitting of any act regarding or relating to the Party or any of its committees for money or other personal material benefit.

3. **Hearing Procedure:**

- a. The Hearing shall be conducted at a place mutually agreed upon by the parties. The Executive Committee shall appoint counsel to present the testimony, evidence and argument supporting the charges to the Special Committee. The officer or committee member

responding to the charges, or his counsel, shall have an opportunity to cross-examine any witnesses, and present any relevant testimony, evidence and written or oral argument in response.

- b. The Special Committee, however, may take all reasonable measures to minimize repetitive, tangential or speculative testimony, evidence or argument. The Special Committee shall rule upon all requests, set the time and place of the hearing and recesses and adjournments, hear and determine arguments, and take measures necessary for maintaining order and the efficiency of the conduct of the hearing. The Special Committee may, at its discretion, allow another County Committee member to give testimony or present evidence in support of or in opposition to the charges. The Special Committee may appoint a chair to act on procedural matters, including objections, but shall take action on all substantive matters, including appointment of a chair and determination of the charges, by majority vote, which shall not be weighted.

4. **Record:**

The hearing may be stenographically recorded at the requesting party's expense. The stenographer shall be selected by counsel for the Committee. A copy of any stenographic transcript of the Hearing shall be given to all parties, and one copy to the Special Committee, at the cost of the party requesting the stenographic record. The party requesting the stenographic record shall make an advance deposit to the Treasurer of the estimated cost of the transcript (to be determined by the stenographer).

5. **Evidence and Burden of Proof:**

All evidence, testimony and argument presented must be relevant. However, other legal rules of evidence need not be strictly applied by the Special Committee during the hearing. Hearsay evidence may be admitted if a reasonable degree of reliability is shown. Each witness shall be sworn, or make an affirmation as to the veracity of the testimony offered, before testifying. The burden of proof is on Counsel for the Committee with respect to the charges. The standard of proof shall be by a preponderance of the evidence.

6. **Special Committee's Decision:**
All determinations of the Special Committee shall be made upon consideration of the entire hearing presentation and record. The final recommendation of the Special Committee shall be in writing and be made within fifteen (15) days after the official close of the hearing and reported promptly to the Executive Committee. A copy of the Special Committee's recommendation shall be sent to the officer or committee member in question by certified mail within ten (10) days of decision.
7. **Final Determination:**
The Executive Committee shall make a final determination of the charges by weighted vote within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Special Committee's recommendation. A copy of the Executive Committee's final determination shall be sent to the officer or committee member in question by certified mail within ten (10) days of the decision.

RULE IV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. **Structure:**
There shall be an Executive Committee, consisting of the Chairperson, Vice Chairpersons, and the Secretary of the County Committee, the members of the State Committee from Seneca County, the chairpersons of all the Town Committees and five (5) other members of the Republican Party who reside in Seneca County, including one member of the Seneca County Board of Supervisors. The Chairperson of the County Committee shall be Chairperson of the Executive Committee. No person who is not a member of the Seneca County Republican Committee shall be allowed to vote on matters before the Executive Committee.
2. **Duties & Powers:**
The Executive Committee shall have general charge of the Republican organization and work and perform such duties as may be necessary to promote the interest and welfare of the Republican Party in the County. It shall have the power to:
 - a. Prescribe the duties of the officers of the County Committee;
 - b. Subject to the provisions of laws and the statutes and

rules of the party, have general jurisdiction over and control of all matters affecting the party in the County.

**RULE V
CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE**

The Chairperson of the County Committee shall appoint a sub-committee to be known as the Campaign Committee. The Chairperson shall endeavor to appoint one member from each Town Committee to such committee, which committee shall perform such duties as are required by the Chairperson of the County Committee. The Committee may be composed in part of persons not members of the County Committee.

**RULE VI
TOWN COMMITTEE AND
NOMINATIONS FOR TOWN OFFICES**

1. **Membership:**

Each Town Committee shall consist of the members of the County Committee representing the election districts of the Town in question and shall elect one of their number chairperson, who shall appoint one of their number secretary.

2. **Nominations for Town Office:**

a. Pursuant to New York State Election Law § 6-108(1), as of January 1, 2006, in every town in the County of Seneca, party nominations of candidates for town offices shall be made at the primary preceding the election.

b. In each town, the Chair of the Town Committee shall be responsible for convening a meeting of the Town Committee to designate party candidates and for preparation, distribution, checking, filing and defense of petitions for designated candidates.

**RULE VII
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Chairperson of the County Committee shall appoint a Committee on Finance to consist of such number as the Chairperson of the County Committee may from time to time determine, composed of members of the Republican Party who

need not be members of the County Committee, its duties being to provide funds for the use of the County Committee.

RULE VIII DISTRICT COMMITTEE

The Chairperson of the County Committee may appoint a Committee in any election district to be known as the District Committee which shall consist of five (5) members appointed from the Qualified Republican Electors in such election district. The Members of a district committee shall perform such duties as are prescribed by the Chairperson of the County Committee from such district who shall be chairperson and ex-officio a member of such district committee.

RULE IX NOMINATIONS FOR VILLAGE OFFICE

1. All nominations for Village offices shall be made at a caucus or primary election. Nominations for Village offices shall be made by caucus unless the members of the County Committee from a Village adopt by a two-thirds (2/3rds) weighted vote, a rule providing that the party candidates for Village Offices shall be nominated at the primary election. Section 15-108 of the Election Law shall apply to the adoption and revocation of a rule providing that the party candidates for Village Offices shall be nominated at the primary election.
2. The Chairperson of the Seneca County Republican County Committee shall name an enrolled member of the party who is a qualified voter in each village in the County to be the Village Election Chairperson. That person shall be responsible for convening a meeting of Republican Committee persons whose districts are within the Village for the purpose of designating party candidates for village office, for preparation, distribution, checking, filing and defense of petitions for designated candidates, and for the conduct of the Village primary election.
3. **Nominations made at a caucus:** Notice of caucuses shall be given as provided by law or regulation. Such caucuses shall be called to order by the chairperson of the Village Election Committee, or in his or her absence, by another member of such committee and only the Republican voters who

were duly enrolled as such upon the last preceding enrollment of such Village shall be entitled to participate or vote. Such caucuses shall first be organized by choosing a chairperson, secretary, and tellers, and in case more than one name is presented as a candidate for one or more elective office, the choice of nominees for such office shall be made by ballot, for which the polls shall be held open for such time as such caucus shall determine by a resolution adopted before such balloting shall commence. Originals of designations shall be filed in the Office of the Village Clerk.

4. **Nominations at the primary Election:** In each Village which has adopted a rule providing that the party candidates for Village Offices shall be nominated at the primary election, the Chairperson of the Village Election Committee shall be responsible for convening a meeting of the Village Election Committee to designate party candidates and for preparation, distribution, checking, filing and defense of Petitions for designated candidates.

All provisions of Section 15-108 shall apply to such nominations.

RULE XI MISCELLANEOUS

1. The rules of the Assembly of the State of New York shall, so far as applicable, govern the procedure to be followed by the County Committees and all sub-committees.
2. A quorum of each sub-committee shall consist of a majority of its members. Each member of the subcommittee shall be entitled to one vote.
3. Any matters which may or must be addressed by the Republican Party of Seneca County or any committee of it, the procedure for which is not addressed in these rules, shall be governed to the extent applicable, by New York State Law and regulations and the rules of the New York State Republican Committee.

RULE XII PROXIES

Should any member of the County Committee be unable to attend a meeting of the Committee, he may choose any qualified County Committee Elector to represent him in all

matters, including voting, at such meeting. All proxies shall be in writing, dated, signed, and filed with the chairperson of such meeting and shall be substantially in the form which follows. One person may hold proxy for more than one other person.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT I, _____, a Committeeperson of the Seneca County Republican Committee from the _____ District of the Town of _____, Seneca County, New York, do hereby constitute and appoint _____, my true and lawful attorney and proxy, for me and in my name, place, and stead, to attend a meeting of the Seneca County Republican Committee to be held at the _____ on _____ and then and there to represent me in all matters and to vote on all matters legally presented at such meeting.

DATED: _____

Member, Seneca County
Republican Committee

**RULE XIII
CONTRARY LAWS**

If these By-Laws or any portion thereof is or becomes contrary to New York State Law or regulation, such By-Laws or portion thereof shall be deemed to be modified to be in accordance with such law or regulation.

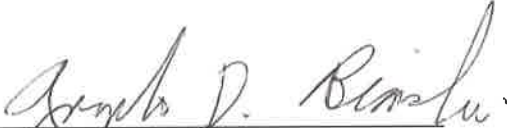
**RULE XIV
AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS**

Amendments to these rules and regulations may be made from time to time by a majority vote of the County Committee upon the following notice: a copy of the proposed amendment shall be sent with the notice of the meeting at which such amendment or amendments is or are to be proposed, such notice to be not less than five (5) days before such meeting, and to be mailed to the post office address of each member of the committee.

STATE OF NEW YORK }
COUNTY OF SENECA } SS.:

I, the undersigned, Chairman of the Seneca County Republican Committee, do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing by-laws and that they are the complete by-laws of the Committee, as duly adopted and amended September 19, 2005 at the Committee's biennial reorganizational meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 1st day of OCT, 2005.


Angelo D. Bianchi, Chairperson

Sworn to before me this
1st day of OCT, 2005.


Notary Public

RICHARD E. SWINEHART
Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Seneca County No. 4967319
My Commission Expires ~~May 20~~, May 30, 06

RECEIVED
NEW YORK STATE
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ALBANY, NEW YORK
2005 OCT -6 AM 9:42