



ONTARIO COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

Todd Valentin, Co-Executive Director
NYSBOE
40 North Pearl St.
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Mr. Valentin:

Enclosed please find the Ontario County Republican Committee's newly adopted Rules of Organization and the new slate of officers for 2014-2016. The new Rules were approved and the officers were elected at the county committee's annual reorganization meeting on Sept. 24, 2014. The Rules replaced bylaws approved in 1992.

I also have filed the new Rules with the Ontario County BOE and the NYS Republican Committee. Please advise if there is anything else I need to do.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Philip G. Beckley
Secretary
Ontario County Republican Committee

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ONTARIO COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE RULES OF ORGANIZATION

Rule 1 – Organization

Section 1 Membership

The Ontario County Republican Party shall consist of all voters enrolled in the Republican Party in Ontario County.

Section 2 Representation

The representative committee of the Republican Party in Ontario County shall be the County Committee. Members shall be elected biennially in the even numbered years **during the primary election as provided in the state election law. The process to be elected shall include the circulation and successful filing of designating petitions with the Ontario County Board of Elections, during the board of elections designated period; as well as, successful election on primary day to the office of committee person for the designated election district.**

Section 3 Subcommittees

In addition to the County Committee there shall be created the following standing subcommittees:

- 1) A County Executive Committee
- 2) A Town or City Committee in each Town or City
- 3) An Auditing Committee
- 4) A Public Relations Committee
- 5) A Ways and Means Committee
- 6) An Advisory Committee

The Chairs of these subcommittees, other than #2, shall be appointed by the County Chair and said appointed Chairs shall then appoint a Vice Chair and Secretary.

Section 4 Voting

There shall be elected, as permitted by law in each election district, two members of the County Committee, one male and one female. Each committee member shall have weighted voting power equal to one-half of the party vote in his or her election district at the last gubernatorial election. Should district boundaries be changed or new districts created since the last gubernatorial election, his or her vote shall be one-half of the party vote cast for Assembly Member in said changed or new district at the last general election, as set forth in the Election Law of New York State. Weighted voting applies only in meetings of the County Committee.

In any meeting of the County Committee or any of its subcommittees only County Committee members may vote. At any subcommittee meeting only members of that subcommittee may vote.

Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote in a meeting of the Executive Committee.

Section 5 Vacancies

A vacancy in an election district may be filled in the interim by a person recommended by consensus from the town/city where the vacancy exists and approved by the County Committee at its next meeting. That person may then file a petition for that post at the next biennial primary.

Section 6 Organizing

The County Committee, within 20 days of its biennial election, shall meet and organize by electing a Chairperson, First Vice Chairperson, Second Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. The current Chairperson shall call the meeting and the current First vice Chair shall preside until the election of the new Chairperson. The names and addresses of all elected officers shall be filed with the New York State Republican Committee and the Ontario County Board of Elections.

Section 7 Officers

All officers shall be enrolled Republican voters. The Vice Chairs and the Secretary shall be members of the County Committee. The Chair and Treasurer may or may not be County Committee members. Should any office be vacated, the Chair shall promptly appoint a successor who must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

In addition, the Chair shall appoint a Parliamentarian who shall advise the County Committee and all its subcommittees as to procedural matters and interpretation of these rules.

Section 8 Alternates

Each County Committee member **may** have an alternate who is a registered Republican voter in Ontario County. Alternates **may** attend County meetings as training for full County Committee membership. An alternate has no voting power unless serving as a proxy in the absence of the County member.

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Rule IV- Proxies

If any member of the Committee be absent or desires not to participate in any meeting of the Committee they may choose by proxy a Republican elector from their town/city to appear in their place or give said proxy to the Chairperson of their town//city. Such proxy shall be in writing on the prescribed form, signed by the absentee and filed with the County Secretary. No person shall cast more than two votes, including their own, at any meeting called to endorse candidates or for the purpose of electing County officers.

Rule V- Procedures

- 1) All County Officers shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.
- 2) Members of the State Committee residing in Ontario County shall be ex-officio members of the County and Executive Committees.
- 3) One-third of the members of any committee shall constitute a quorum of said committee.
- 4) A. Any proposition or other matter before any committee shall be carried by a majority (half plus one) of the legal votes cast.
B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subdivision (A), any candidate for public office seeking the endorsement of the County Committee for that office shall be required to obtain an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the total weighted vote cast at a County Committee meeting called for the purpose of endorsing candidates. In the event that after three consecutive ballots no candidate has obtained the necessary two-thirds majority there shall be no Committee endorsement for said office.
- 5) When paper ballots are used at County Committee meetings, after tallying, the ballots shall be collected and given to the Republican Elections Commissioner to be filed at the County Board of Elections for a period of six months. After six months the ballots shall be destroyed.
- 6) Prior to a Republican Primary or caucus, a Republican Committee member may support any candidate of their choice. After candidates have been selected by Primary or caucus, only that candidate may be supported by County Committee members.

Rule VI- Duties of Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee shall advise the Chairperson and make recommendations to the Executive Committee on such matters as may be brought before it or assigned to it by the County Chairperson.

Rule VII- Duties of the Ways and Means Committee

The Ways and Means Committee shall have the duty of devising and implementing means and methods of raising funds required for the operation of the Party and for the advancement of its principles.

Rule VIII- The Audit Committee

The Audit Committee shall have, together with the Chairperson and the Treasurer, general supervision of all monies belonging to or collected by the County Committee and the expenditure of same.

The Audit Committee shall audit the financial records of the County Committee at least once each calendar year and at each change of the County Treasurer and submit a written report to the Executive Committee as to the correctness of these records. This report shall then be made available to the County Committee.

All checks drawn upon the funds of the Committee are to be signed by the Treasurer or in his/her absence, the County Chair. Funds deposited to the account of the Committee will be directed to the depository chosen by the Executive Committee.

Rule IX- Amendments

Amendments to these rules may be made by majority vote of the County Committee upon the following notice. A copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall be sent with notice of meeting for this purpose at least five days prior to the meeting date by email or postal mail to each County Committee member. The amendment shall be read and approved at two consecutive meetings.

Rule X- Rules of Order

Roberts Rules of Order shall serve as a guide for the conduct of meetings of the Executive and County Committees.

Rule XI- Duties of the Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee shall identify matters on which the Ontario County Republican Committee shall be informed. In addition, they shall promote a positive image of the Republican Party to the public and assist the town/city committees on these same matters. They shall be charged with investigating matters presented by the County Committee and report back their findings.

Rule XII- Town/City Sub-Committees

Town and City subcommittees shall use these rules to govern their respective committees. They shall have available to them the resources of the Ways and Means and Public Relations Committees. Town and City subcommittees may, if they so choose write a set of rules particular to their organization. Such rules need a majority vote of that town/city committee. Said rules must be approved by the Executive Committee and shall not supersede any rule of the New York State Republican Committee or any rule of the Ontario County Republican Committee.

Rule XIII- Interpretation of Rules

All questions or disputes related to these rules shall be referred to the Parliamentarian, who in resolving the question or dispute may consult with the County Chairperson.

Rule XIV- Appointments by Chairman

The Chairman of the County Republican Committee shall have the authority to appoint individuals to various posts not provided for elsewhere within these rules to conduct business or promote continuity within the committee. All such appointments shall serve at the pleasure of the County Chairperson.

Rule XV- Party Caucuses

Party caucuses are to be called as prescribed by election law to choose candidates. Only enrolled Republican voters from the City or Town caucusing shall be permitted to vote at such caucuses. Voter Enrollment lists prepared by the County Election Commissioners' office shall be used to determine eligible voters. A Chairman and Secretary shall be elected at each caucus from the eligible voter list to conduct the business of the caucus.

These changes are proposed to the duly adopted and amended bylaws approved by the New York State Republican Committee on July 7, 1992

Reprinted April 5, 1993 with amendments

Reprinted July 17, 2000 with amendments

Submitted by the Advisory Committee February 12, 2014, **amended September 24, 2014**

Michael J. Osborne, Chairman