

**RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
SENECA COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE
INDEPENDENCE PARTY
OF NEW YORK STATE**

Adopted: 09/26/04

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NEW YORK STATE
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ALBANY, NY

The Seneca County Committee of the Independence Party of New York State does hereby adopt the Rules and Regulations following for the organization and government of the Independence Party in the County of Seneca.

Article I - PARTY ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1 - BASIC ORGANIZATION: The basis of the organization of the Independence Party of Seneca County shall consist of the Independence electors of each election district who have duly enrolled as required by law in their respective election districts for the purpose of participating in the primary elections of the Independence Party. The aforesaid electors shall elect a County Committee.

SECTION 2 - PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION: The County Committee is organized for the purpose of supporting and electing to public office candidates nominated by the Independence Party pursuant to law, or engaging in political action for the promotion of the principles and policies of the Independence Party, and of coordinating the activities of all other Independence Party organizations within this county.

Article II - COUNTY COMMITTEE

SECTION 1 - AUTHORITY AND POWER: The County Committee shall have general authority over the Independence Party organization of the county and every subdivision thereof, except where limited by these rules and regulations, the rules and regulations of the Independence Party of New York State, or by law. All committees of the Independence Party within Seneca County shall be under the jurisdiction of the County Committee and subject to such provisions and regulations as it may prescribe.

SECTION 2 - MEMBERSHIP: The County Committee shall be constituted by the election, biennially, or two (2) members from each election district within the County (who shall be residents of the Assembly District from which they are elected) except as

hereinafter provided in this section. If One Hundred Fifty (150) or more, but not more than Two Hundred Ninety-nine (299) Independence Party votes were cast for Governor in any election district in the last preceding gubernatorial election, then three (3) county committee members shall be elected from that election district. If Three Hundred (300) or more Independence Party votes were cast for Governor in any election district in the last preceding gubernatorial election, then four (4) county committee members shall be elected from that election district. If the boundaries of any election district shall have been changed or a new election district has been created since the last preceding gubernatorial election, then three (3) county committee members shall be elected from any such election district if there has been an assembly election in that election district since the last preceding gubernatorial election and One Hundred Fifty (150) or more, but not more than Two Hundred Ninety-nine (299) Independence Party votes were cast for Member of Assembly therein, or if no such assembly election has been held and the Independence Party enrollment in that election district is One Hundred Fifty (150) or more, but not more than Two Hundred Ninety-nine (299). If the boundaries of any election district shall have been changed or a new election district has been created since the last preceding gubernatorial election, then four (4) county committee members shall be elected from any such election district, if there has been an assembly election in that election district since the last preceding gubernatorial election and more than Three Hundred (300) Independence Party votes were cast for Member of Assembly therein, or if no such assembly election has been held and the Independence Party enrollment in that election district is more than Three Hundred (300).

SECTION 3 - EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: In addition to the members elected as aforesaid, the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the County Committee shall be voting members of that committee by virtue of their office in the event that one or more of the aforesaid officers would not otherwise be a member of the County Committee.

SECTION 4 - VACANCIES: Any vacancy in the membership of the County Committee caused by death, resignation, declination, disqualification, removal from the Assembly District or removal from office of a member of the County Committee, or by failure to nominate or elect a member, or by the creation of a new election district for which there shall be no member in the County Committee, shall be filled by the remaining members of

such County Committee by the election of an enrolled Independent qualified to represent the election district in question.

SECTION 5 - REMOVAL OF MEMBER OF COMMITTEE: A member of the County Committee may be removed by such Committee for disloyalty to the Party or for corruption in office or for enrollment in another Party after notice and an opportunity for a hearing upon written charges. The Executive Committee may hear such charges or it may appoint a committee to hear them, in which case the committee appointed shall report its findings to the Executive Committee, and if the Executive Committee deems that the charges have been sustained, it shall report its findings to the County Committee which shall act thereon.

Article III - OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

SECTION 1 - ORGANIZATION OF COUNTY COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The County Committee shall meet to organize within twenty (20) days after the primary election at which its members were elected. At its organizing meeting, the County Committee shall adopt rules and regulations governing the Party within the County and shall elect a Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Such officers shall be enrolled voters of the Independence Party within the County, but need not be elected members of the County Committee. In addition, a Vice Chair and three (3) At-Large Members shall be elected. Each officer(s) shall be a voting member of and perform his/her respective duties for both the County Committee and the Executive Committee of the County Committee.

Within three (3) days after the election of the aforesaid officers, the Secretary shall file with the New York State Board of Elections and with the Board of Elections of Seneca County a certificate stating the names and post office address of such officers.

Within ten (10) days after the adoption of rules and regulations governing the Party within the County, the Secretary shall file with the New York State Board of Elections and with the Board of Elections of Seneca County a copy of the rules and regulations adopted.

In case of the death, resignation, removal from the County or other disqualification of any of the officers elected pursuant to this SECTION, the Executive Committee may fill the vacancy created thereby for the period existing until the next meeting of the County Committee, at which meeting a successor officer(s)

shall be elected to serve the balance of the term of the officer in question. The notice of that County Committee meeting shall specify that an election will be held for the office in question.

SECTION 2 - DUTIES OF OFFICERS: The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the County Committee and of the Executive Committee. He/she shall be an ex-officio member of all standing and special committees unless otherwise provided by these rules and regulations. He/she shall make all appointments called for by law or by these rules. He/she shall perform the duties ordinarily performed by the chief executive officer of political party committees and such other duties as may be prescribed by law or assigned to him/her by the County or Executive Committee.

The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in the performance of his/her duties. In the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair. In addition, the Vice Chair shall perform such other duties as the County Committee or the Executive Committee may require.

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the County and Executive Committees, shall send out all notices of meetings, and shall keep the records of such Committees and the files or letters of the officers and Committees. He/she shall arrange for the places of meetings of the County Committee. He/she shall be responsible for the preparation and filing of all reports required by law, except those which have to do with matters financial or which by law are required to be filed by some other officer. He/she shall also prepare and mail all notices and statements required by law or by these rules to be forwarded to other party organizations in the County or State. In general, he/she shall perform the duties of a Secretary of a political party and the committees thereof and, in addition thereto, such other duties as the County Committee or the Executive Committee may require.

The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the County Committee and the Executive Committee. He/she shall be responsible for the collection of funds for the party purposes in and for the County. He/she shall see that such funds are properly disbursed. He/she shall file with the proper officers or departments all financial reports and statements required by law of the County Committee, the Executive Committee, or any other standing or special committee of the County Committee. In general, he/she shall perform the duties ordinarily performed by

the Treasurer of a political party and the committees thereof and, in addition thereto, such other duties relating to financial matters as the County Committee or the Executive Committee may require.

At-Large Members shall perform such duties as the County Committee or the Executive Committee may require.

SECTION 3 - COMMITTEES: There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the County Committee and three (3) At - Large Members. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have an equal vote in said Committee. At all times when the County Committee is not actually in session, the Executive Committee shall have, possess and exercise all the rights, privileges, powers and duties which the County Committee may have, possess and exercise.

The County Committee may establish such standing or special committees as it deems appropriate. No Independence Party Town, Villages or District Committee or Independence Party Club may be organized within this County except pursuant to a resolution adopted by the County Committee and the term of such committee or club shall be coterminous with the County Committee which established said committee or club.

Article IV - MEETINGS

SECTION 1 - ORGANIZATION MEETING: At the meeting of the County Committee for organization purposes, as provided in SECTION 1 of Article III, the Chair of the outgoing committee shall preside until the Chair of the new Committee is elected. The presiding officer of the first organizing meeting of this County Committee shall be a state committee delegate and have permission by the State Secretary of the Independence Party.

The following shall be the order of business at all meetings of the County Committee:

1. Call of roll of Committeepersons;
2. Filling of vacancies;
3. Adoption of rules (if appropriate);
4. Election of Officers (if appropriate);
5. Reports of Officers and/or Committees;
6. Old Business;
7. New Business;
8. Ajournment.

SECTION 2 - SPECIAL MEETINGS: A special meeting of the County Committee may be called by the Executive Committee or by the Chair and must be called by the Chair or the Secretary upon written request of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the Committeepersons. A meeting called upon written request of Committeepersons shall be held on the date designated therein, provided a reasonable time is allowed to prepare and mail the notice required by SECTION 3 of this Article. If such notice cannot be given, the meeting shall be called at the earliest reasonable date thereafter.

SECTION 3 - NOTICE OF MEETINGS: Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the County Committee must be mailed to each member not less than five (5) days before such meeting and notice of all adjourned meetings must be mailed to each member at least two (2) days prior thereto, except when a different notice is required by law. Notice of meetings of the Executive Committee and of all Standing and Special Committees must be given by mail at least two (2) days before the meeting, or may be given by telegraph or telephone not less than twenty-four (24) hours before the meeting.

SECTION 4 - QUORUM: A quorum of the County Committee, and of all sub-committees thereof, shall consist of twenty-five percent (25%) of the whole membership of such committee and, unless otherwise provided by law, may transact the business of the County Committee or any subcommittee thereof. Less than a quorum may adjourn a meeting to another time and place.

SECTION 5 - PROXIES: At meetings of the County Committee, a member shall be entitled to vote in person or by proxy. Such proxy must designate another member of the County Committee as a proxy of the member giving the proxy, shall be confined to a specific meeting of the County Committee, must be evidenced by an authorization in writing and such proxy must be duly filed with the Secretary of the meeting for which the proxy is given. Members may not vote by proxy at meetings of the Executive Committee or of standing or special committees.

Article V - NOMINATIONS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

SECTION 1 - Independence Party nominations of candidates for public office required to be made in the manner prescribed by the rules of this County Committee shall be made at a meeting of the County Committee provided, however, that any such nomination may be made at a meeting of the Executive Committee, subject to

the approval of the County Committee, and shall be valid if the County Committee does not nominate another candidate or revoke the nomination of the Executive Committee prior to the time fixed by the election law for filing a certificate of nomination for the office in question.

Nominations of candidates for town offices shall be made at the primary election preceding the general election.

Nominations of candidates for village offices shall be made at a caucus of enrolled voters of the Independence Party.

SECTION 2 - Unless otherwise required by law, the nomination of a candidate to fill a vacancy in an elective office to be voted for solely within the County and required to be filled at the next general election, occurring after the fifth Tuesday preceding a primary election, shall be made by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3 - Nominations for an office to be voted for solely within the County and to be filled at a special election shall be made by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 4 - Vacancies in nominations made by the County Committee or by the Executive Committee shall be filled by a committee to fill vacancies appointed by such County Committee or Executive Committee. In the event that the committee to fill vacancies is not appointed or fails to act, the Executive Committee may fill such vacancies.

SECTION 5 - In cases not otherwise provided for, a vacancy in nomination for an office to be voted for solely within the County and to be filled at any general or special election, for whatsoever reason caused, shall be filled by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 6 - The Executive Committee is empowered to authorize the designation, nomination or substitution of a person as a candidate for any office to be voted for solely within the county who is not enrolled as a member of the Independence Party.

The authorization provided for shall be signified by the filing of a certificate, signed and acknowledged by the presiding officer and secretary of the meeting at which such authorization was given, authorizing such designation, nomination or

substitution of a candidate with the officer or board with whom such certificate is required to be filed by law.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to judicial offices.

Article VI - AMENDMENTS

These rules and regulations shall continue to be the rules for the County Committee until they are amended or new rules are adopted by a successor County Committee.

These rules may be amended from time to time by majority vote of the members of the County Committee present at a meeting at which there is a quorum, provided that a copy of any proposed amendments shall be sent with the notice of the meeting at which such amendment is to be proposed, such notice to be given not less than five (5) days before such meetings and mailed to the post office address of each member of the County Committee.

Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, at the biennial organization meeting of the County Committee, it shall be in order to propose an amendment to these rules and regulations without prior written notice and the County Committee may vote on the proposed amendment at that organization meeting.

Article VII - SAVING CLAUSE

Any matter not included within these rules and regulations shall be provided for by the County Committee to the extent permitted by law and by the rules and regulations of the Independence Party of New York State.

If any Court of competent jurisdiction shall judge any section or provision of these rules and regulations to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect the validity of any other section or provision.

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