# **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

# **BARRON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY**

1. **ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this organization shall be " BARRON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY” and may be referred to in this document as “BCRP.”

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

The purpose of this organization shall be to coordinate and unify under one central organization the activities of the Barron County Republican Party and to aid in every honorable way fundamental Republican principles and policies, and as a voluntary political organization to cooperate and assist in all county, state, and national elections, to the end that our Republican 'form of government as created under the Constitution of the United States and the State of Wisconsin be preserved for all of the people. As a constituent self-governing part of the Republican Party of Wisconsin, this organization shall direct, manage, supervise, and control the business, property, and funds of The Barron County Republican Party.

**ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

Section One: Membership in this organization shall be open to Barron County residents of voting age who believe in the above objectives, purposes, and principles of the Barron County Republican Party and are not holding membership with any other political party or organization. New members must have paid current dues to The Barron County Republican Party and have been recorded by the Secretary or Treasurer for a period of 60 (sixty) days prior to voting in any capacity during Executive Committee meetings, Annual Caucus, Monthly Membership meetings, or any Special meeting. Previous year renewing members can rejoin any time prior to the convening of the Annual Caucus.

Section Two: The membership year shall be defined as January 1st through December 31st.

**ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

 Section One: The elected officers of this organization shall consist of Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair of the Finance Committee. Officer positions are open to all Barron County residents of legal voting age with memberships in good standing regardless of gender.

Section Two: The nine (9) voting members of the Executive Committee shall consist of the elected Officers; and three (3) members from the membership at large shall represent all sections of Barron County. Any Barron County Republican Party member in good standing is eligible to be elected to the Executive Committee as an at- large member or In the case of a vacancy after the election process, be appointed by a simple majority vote approving the appointment by the general membership upon recommendation of the Executive Committee. Only members holding legal residence within Barron County borders are eligible to be elected Officers on the Executive Committee or function as delegates or alternates at the State Convention or District Caucuses for the purpose of representing Barron County. All elected Executive Committee Members shall serve until the adjournment of the Caucus or Meeting at which his/her successor is elected.

Section Three: All Officers shall serve without compensation. The Chairman may, with the approval of the Executive Committee and a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority vote of those members present at any regular or special meeting or caucus of this organization where the call and the notice state such purpose, appoint full or part-time employees who may be paid compensation as the Chairman and Executive Committee have determined.

Section Four: Duties of Officers

(1) The Chair shall preside at all meetings and caucuses of the Party and of the Executive Committee, except for circumstances outlined in Article V – Section one and shall have general supervision of the work of the organization.

(2) The First Vice Chair, in the absence of the Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair.

(3) The Second Vice Chair shall assist the Chair and First Vice Chair in the performance of their duties.

(4) The Secretary shall keep and read the Minutes of all meetings and caucuses and shall be the custodian of all records of the Party and shall promptly issue membership cards to all qualifying members.

(5) The Treasurer shall receive and be custodian of all funds of the Party and shall pay all bills. The Treasurer shall keep an account of all monies received and disbursed and shall report in full as required by the Chair. All disbursement checks must be cosigned by the Treasurer and Finance Chair. In the absence of either the Treasurer or the Finance Chair, the BCRP Chair or a vice chair will co-sign.

(6) The Chair of the Finance Committee, elected by the general membership at the Annual Caucus, shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee once elected. The purpose of the Finance Committee shall be to develop and implement a fundraising plan, as well as a budget and financial policy for the county party with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Finance Committee Chair shall also advise the BCRP Chair and Treasurer on matters related to the budget and financial policy.

 (7) The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall file all proper reports as required by law applicable to their offices.

Section Five: Duties of the Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall have authority to transact any necessary business between meetings or caucuses; make recommendations as to the policies of the Party; advise the Chairman; make recommendations to the membership to fill vacancies that occur between elections; complete slates of delegates and alternates to the State Convention or District Caucuses. and reserves the right to recommend to the general membership, at a Caucus or Special Membership Meeting to endorse or withhold endorsement of candidates; recommend for cause the removal of Members, and Officers, to the general Membership, upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee at the next regular scheduled general membership meeting; and such other duties as may be prescribed under the By-Laws.

Section Six: The term of office for the Officers and Executive Committee members shall be two (2) years, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section Seven: All Officers and elected members of the Executive Committee shall be elected in a duly constituted county caucus prior to April 1st in the odd-numbered years.

Section Eight: The Executive Committee shall communicate to the general membership such policies, procedures, and rules of conduct as it deems fit, to further the goals of the BCRP, but at all times the policies, procedures and rules of conduct shall conform with the Republican Party of Wisconsin Constitution and directives.

Section Nine: Candidate Support - The Executive Committee Members are allowed to participate in the Republican Party of Wisconsin’s endorsement process in accordance with the Constitution of the Republican Party of Wisconsin. Executive Committee Members who use their position to advance non-endorsed candidates in partisan elections shall resign their position or be subject to removal from the Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE V - MEETINGS AND CAUCUSES**

Section One: General membership meetings or caucuses shall be held upon proper notice, at the call of the Chair or at the direction of the Executive Committee, or upon petition of twenty-five (25) members in good standing. Such a petition is to state the exact purpose of the meeting or caucus. The discussion at that time will be limited to the exact purpose listed on the petition. These meetings may be conducted by any member of the Executive Board. Meetings other than the Annual Caucus, proper notice shall consist of a written or electronic communication delivered to all members at their last known address or email address of record Five (5) days prior to the meeting.

Section Two: The Annual Caucus shall be held prior to April 1 of each year at which time delegates and alternates shall be elected to attend the District Caucus and the State Convention; and for election of Officers and Executive Board in the odd-numbered years.

Section Three: The Executive Committee shall hold regular meetings at such times as are determined by the Executive Committee. All members of the Executive Committee shall be notified when and where meetings are to be held. All Executive Committee meetings are open to the general membership. All closed sessions will follow “Robert Rules of order.”

Section Four: Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chairperson or by written request of five (5) members of the Executive Committee upon notice to all members. Proper notice for regular and special meetings of the Executive Committee shall consist of a written or electronic communication delivered to all members at their last known address and/or email address of record and at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. All members of the Executive Committee and the general membership shall be notified as to when and where such meetings are held.

Section Five: A county caucus shall be one called and advertised at least twice, but not more than 30 (thirty) days prior to the meeting, with the second notice being sent with a minimum of (5) days prior to said meeting. The Chair shall mail or e-mail these notices to all members. The Chair shall give similar notice to delegates and alternates of State Conventions and District Caucuses.

Section Six: Regular and special meetings of the Executive Committee, any subcommittee or special committee, may be held by electronic means (such as telephone conference, video conference, or internet communication system) subject to the following requirements:

(1) a majority of the members shall have access to the specified electronic media.

(2) a quorum for the meeting shall be established by roll call vote and once established, shall be assumed present until the meeting is adjourned.

(3) the technology used for the electronic meetings shall allow the members full access to and full participation in all meeting transactions either continuously or intermittently throughout the specified time of the meeting.

(4) the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum shall be the minimum vote requirement for the adoption of any motion, with a roll call being required upon request of any member participating in the meeting.

Section Seven: Members in good standing can attend all caucuses, general membership meetings, and meetings of the Executive Committee, unless Executive Committee meetings are noticed as being in closed session for rare circumstances such as the consideration of disciplinary issues, the expulsion of members, and the removal of officers.

**ARTICLE VI - NOMINATIONS ELECTIONS AND COMMITTEES**

Section One: A nominating committee of not less than three (3) members shall be appointed by the Chair prior to each election. This committee shall nominate one nominee for each office at the caucus called for such election and the full slate of nominees shall be presented to the general membership in attendance, after which nominees from the floor shall be allowed as the election for each position is up for consideration. The nomination of Executive Committee Members should attempt to reflect all geographic areas of Barron County.

Section Two: The nominating committee shall nominate three (3) members to serve on the Executive Committee from the membership at large to represent all sections of the County, after which nominees from the floor shall be allowed. All at-large positions will each be elected by a simple majority on a single individual ballot. In the case of a tie, there shall be a runoff vote.

Section Three: The Chair may nominate a slate of delegates and alternates to attend each State Convention and District Caucus, after which nominations from the floor shall be allowed.

Section Four: Where more than one candidate is nominated for an office, elections will be held by secret written ballot. A majority of the votes cast shall be elected. The result of the vote will be reported. In the case of a vote resulting in less than a 5-vote difference, a recount may be requested by the candidates on that ballot.

Section Five: Where there is only one candidate for an office, election may be by acclamation.

Section Six: The Executive Committee may recommend forming separate Standing Committees that shall have and may exercise such powers as are provided in the resolution of the Executive Committee that designates such committee. These resolutions may be created, amended, and supplemented from time to time. The BCRP Chair shall appoint a Member to serve as Chairperson of these committees. The Committee Chairperson can ask other members to assist with the needs of the committee. Upon the request of the Committee Chairperson, the Executive Committee may appoint one or more of its members to any committee to take the place of any absent member or members at any meeting of such a committee. Any standing committee does not need to contain Executive Committee members; however, Executive Committee members may volunteer to function as a committee member or committee Chairperson while being on the Executive Committee.

Section Seven: In the event Standing Committees are created, it shall be recorded in the minutes of the Secretary. Resolutions shall be made, which will be a simple document that will clearly define the role and power of the committee. This process and amendments will be attached to this BCRP Constitution and By-Laws as a separate document titled Standing Committees of the BCRP. The Executive Committee is the only authority allowed to create, amend, or dissolve Standing Committees. These changes will be added as a continuing addendum that should be reviewed and updated as needed.

**ARTICLE VII - QUORUM**

Section One: A quorum for a general membership meeting or caucus theBCRP shall be at least fifteen (15) percent of the total number of members.

Section Two: A quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be a majority of the Executive Committee members. In the event the majority of the Executive Committee is not present, the meeting shall be canceled, and the business of the BCRP will not be officially conducted.

ARTICLE VIII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

 "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised" shall govern all proceedings except where inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of this organization and shall be resolved in favor of this Constitution. In the event of a conflict between the two, the Chairman’s decision shall be final, unless such an opinion is overridden by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee or the general membership, depending on the type of meeting.

ARTICLE IX - QUITTING RESIGNATION AND DEATH

Section One: Any member accepted for membership may withdraw or resign from BCRP upon notice to the Executive Committee.

Section Two: In the case of Officers quitting, resignation, or death, concerning the.

 (1) Chairperson - The First Vice Chair will fill the roles and function as Chair until a new Chair can be elected in accordance with Article Five, Section One and will occur no later than at the next scheduled general membership meeting. A notice sent by E-mail to the Executive Committee and to the BCRP general membership by the Acting Chair shall occur immediately within receiving knowledge and confirmation of quitting, resignation, or death of the Chairperson. The transfer of any money other than paying prior existing bills will not be allowed until a new Chairperson has been elected by a simple majority of the BCRP General Membership.

(2) Nominations for BCRP Chair will be taken from the floor by the Executive Committee and an election will take place in accordance with Article VI Section Four and Section Five and elected by a simple majority of votes cast at the BCRP general membership meeting.

(3) The acting Chairman may appoint a temporary person to fill any Executive Committee position until an election process can be conducted within a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed sixty (60) days, determined by the Executive Committee and shall be elected in accordance with Article VI Section Four and Section Five, and elected by a simple majority of votes cast at the BCRP general membership meeting.

(4) In the event all elected Officers simultaneously vacate their positions by quitting, resignation, or death, the senior Executive Committee member will fill the role of Acting Chair adhering to the rules stated in ARTICLE X, Sections One, Two and Three. The Acting Chair shall reach out for assistance and inform the 7th District Chairperson and WISGOP leadership of the current county Party situation and status.

**ARTICLE X - EXPULSION**

Any member may be expelled from the BCRP for good cause upon recommendation by (2/3) two thirds vote of the Executive Committee and a simple majority vote of the membership during an Annual Caucus, monthly membership meeting, or a special meeting, and in accordance with the process and procedures outlined in Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised. Good cause is defined as any determination by the Executive Committee that the actions of any Officer, Executive Committee Member, or BCRP Member have been deemed detrimental to the purposes of the Barron County Republican Party.

**ARTICLE XI** **- LIABILITY OF MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

 No person shall be liable to the BCRP for any loss or damage suffered by it on account of any action taken or omitted to be taken by him/her in good faith as a Committee Member or Officer at the request of the BCRP if such person:

 (1) Exercised and used the same degree of care and skill as a prudent man or woman would have exercised or used under the circumstances in the conduct of his/her own affairs, or.

(2) Took or omitted to take such action in reliance upon advice of counsel for the BCRP or upon statements made or information furnished by Officers or Committee Members of the BCRP on which he/she had reasonable grounds to believe to be true.

(3) The foregoing shall not be exclusive of other rights and defenses to which he/she may be entitled as a matter of law.

**ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS**

Section One: Amendments to this constitution may be made after passing by a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority vote of those members present at any regular or special meeting or caucus of this organization where the call and notice states such purpose. Such amendments must not conflict with the State Constitution and are subject to modification.

Section Two: The Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Wisconsin shall review this Constitution for compliance, and to ensure there are no conflicts with the Constitution.

Section Three: In the event the State Executive Committee determines there is a conflict between this Constitution and the State Constitution, the BCRP Executive Committee shall work with the State Executive Committee to resolve such conflicts. Once resolved, such changes must still be approved by the BCRP Members pursuant to this Constitution.

Approved this \_\_\_\_day of February 2025

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ BCRP Chairperson

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Revised From Annual Caucus February 3,2025