

Constitution

and

By - Laws

OF THE

REPUBLICAN
PARTY OF DARKE
COUNTY, OHIO

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PREAMBLE

The Republican County Central Committee of Darke County, Ohio, duly elected by the members of the Republican Party of Darke County in accordance with the statutes of the State of Ohio, does hereby make, ordain and establish this Constitution and By-Laws of the Republican Party of Darke County.

ARTICLE I PURPOSES; PLEDGE; ORGANIZATION

Section 1: Purposes. The purposes of the Republican Party of Darke County shall be to secure the most capable, honest, and forward-looking administration for the government of the nation, state, county, township and municipalities, and in accordance with the principles of the Republican Party continually assist in advancing and achieving the common welfare and the benefits of liberty and justice for ourselves and our posterity.

Section 2: Pledge. The members of the Darke County Republican Party Central Committee pledge themselves to support the principals espoused in the Republican Platform as adopted by the delegates to the most recent quadrennial Republican National Convention and to assist in achieving the purposes of the Republican Party of Darke County described in this Article.

Section 3: Governing Bodies. The Republican Party of Darke County shall consist of a Central Committee, an Executive Committee, and such subcommittees as the Central or Executive Committees shall from time to time establish.

Section 4: No Implied Consent. No officer or member of the Darke County Central or Executive Committees shall have implied power to bind the Darke County Republican Party or any committee thereof by any financial contract or obligation.

ARTICLE II CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Section 1: Composition of the Central Committee. The Republican Party Central Committee of Darke County (“Central Committee”) shall consist of one member from each election precinct in Darke County in accordance with the statutes of the State of Ohio. Each member of the Central Committee shall be a member of the Republican Party and a resident of the precinct which he or she represents, elected by direct vote of the members of the Republican Party of the member’s precinct in accordance with the statutes of the State of Ohio. Members of the Central Committee shall be elected for terms of two years and serve until a successor is elected and qualified in accordance with the statutes of the State of Ohio. The Executive Committee is hereby authorized to fill vacancies on the Central Committee upon recommendation of the Chairman of the Central Committee.

Section 2: Central Committee Organizational Meeting. Not earlier than six nor later than fifteen days after the certification of the election of members of the Central Committee, the members shall meet and organize. Notices giving the place and time of such meeting shall be sent to each member-elect by the retiring Secretary of the Central Committee, and a copy of the notice shall be posted in the office of the Board of Elections at least five days prior to any such meeting. The meeting shall be called to order by the retiring Chairperson or Secretary, or, if there is no such officer present, then by a member of such Committee designated by the Republican members of the Board of Elections. A temporary Chairperson and Secretary shall be chosen and the Central Committee shall proceed to organize by the election of its officers, committees, and Executive Committee Chairperson, all of whom shall serve at the pleasure of the Central Committee, or until their successors are elected and qualified in accordance with this Constitution and By-Laws and the laws of the State of Ohio. The Central Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies in such offices and that of the Executive Committee Chairperson. All votes of the Central Committee shall be by standing vote, excepting the elections of its Chairperson and the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, which, in the event there is more than one nominee or candidate, shall be by secret ballot.

Section 3: Meetings. Following the Organizational Meeting, the Central Committee shall meet as necessary to carry out any business brought before it by the Chairperson or by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Written notice of such meetings, setting forth the purpose thereof, shall be sent by ordinary U.S. Mail or Email to the members of the Committee at least five days in advance of the day of the meeting. A quorum at any meeting of the Central Committee shall consist of 25% of the Committee's membership.

Section 4: Management and Delegation of Responsibilities. Between meetings of the Central Committee, the Executive Committee shall have and exercise all powers of the Central Committee, including but not limited to: managing the affairs of the Republican Party in Darke County, Ohio and its day-to-day operations; directing the general policy of the Party organization; directing and conducting campaign activities; designating a Finance Committee, which shall be its principal fund-raising adjunct; designating such additional political and fund-raising auxiliaries and such candidate supporting entities as it may from time to time choose; promoting the best interests of the Party; and performing all duties by law or custom required of it except for the filling of all vacancies in the Central Committee which authority is reserved to the chairperson of the Central Committee.

Section 5: Vacancies of Candidates and Officeholders. The Central Committee is authorized to fill any vacancy created by the death or withdrawal prior to a general election of a person nominated as a Republican candidate, and to fill any vacancy created by the death, prior to a primary election, of a person for nomination as the Republican candidate, and to select a person as the Republican Party candidate for an unexpired term upon the death or resignation of the incumbent officeholder, all pursuant to Sections 3513.30 and 3513.31 of the Ohio Revised Code, as the same may hereafter be amended or recodified.

The Central Committee shall also fill any vacancy in the office of county commissioner, prosecuting attorney, county auditor, county treasurer, clerk of the court of common pleas, sheriff, county recorder, county engineer, or coroner as provided in Section 305.02 of the Ohio Revised Code as well as make any recommendations to the governor relative to filling any vacancy in the office of judge pursuant to Article IV, Section 13, of the Ohio Constitution.

Section 6: Subcommittees. Standing subcommittees of the Central Committee shall consist of the following:

- A. Voter Education and Participation. This subcommittee shall be comprised of the five (5) members of the Darke County Central Committee who were elected to serve on the Executive Committee as specified in Article IV, Section 1(D-H).

The responsibility of this committee is to promote Republican activities at the neighborhood level throughout Darke County on behalf of the Republican Party and its nominated candidates and/or elected officials at all levels of government. These events should include, but are not limited to, distribution of candidates' signs, assisting with phone banks, "Get Out the Vote" (GOTV) efforts at election time and recruiting other Republicans and non-partisan voters in their district to become better educated relating to Republican principals and agenda, and as a result becoming more involved with the party.

This subcommittee shall elect a Chairperson from its members to serve as liaison with the Chairperson of the County Central Committee and keep the Chairperson of the County Central Committee apprized of its activities. The other four (4) members of this subcommittee shall discuss their individual plans and projects for their districts with the Chairperson of the subcommittee prior to implementing such.

Any news releases to promote local events sponsored by this subcommittee or to report on political events in the individual districts, shall be approved by the Chairperson of the County Central Committee before being submitted to the news media for release.

The purpose of this subcommittee is for the Darke County Republican Party to utilize the knowledge and experience of all members of the County Central Committee to the largest extent possible.

- B. Constitution and By-Laws. This subcommittee shall be comprised of the vice chairpersons of the County Central Committee and the Executive Committee plus one person selected by the County Central Committee Chairperson. The Constitution and By-Laws Sub-committee shall meet not less than biennially prior to the primary election in even numbered years to review these Constitution and By-laws and propose any necessary changes to the full Central Committee.

Any member of the Central or Executive Committees may submit to any member of the Constitution and By-Law subcommittee written, proposed amendments to these Constitution and By-laws. The subcommittee shall, if necessary, re-word, re-number and/or format the proposed amendment, retaining the effect intended by the proposer, such that, if adopted, the amendment would logically and consistently merge with the existing provisions of these Constitution and By-laws. The subcommittee shall, in its report to the full Central Committee, submit its recommendation for, against, or neither, the passage of the proposed amendment.

- C. Screening Committee. The Screening Committee shall be comprised of the Chairperson of the Central Committee; Chairperson of the Executive Committee; two (2) persons appointed by the Chairperson of the Central Committee; and, one (1) person appointed by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

The following shall not be qualified nor permitted to serve on the Screening Committee:

1. Employees of any office being screened and their relatives;
2. Candidates for any office being screened and their relatives or employees;
3. The officeholder of an office being screened and their relatives or employees.

The duties of the Screening committee shall be to make recommendations to the Central Committee for the filling of vacancies in the offices of elected officials and of pre-primary and/or post primary Republican candidates and nominees.

The Screening Committee will not endorse but shall scrutinize the candidates and make recommendations to the Central Committee.

Any Central or Executive Committee member who wishes to question a candidate without being recognized may submit the question to a Screening Committee member. The Screening Committee member so requested shall pose the question to the candidate during his/her appearance before the Screening Committee. The Screening Committee member shall promptly relay the candidate's response back to the Central or Executive Committee member requesting the question. Divulging of any information by a Screening Committee member except as provided herein shall be cause for the immediate dismissal of the member from the Screening Committee.

In addition to these standing subcommittees, the Chairperson of the Central Committee may appoint special or *ad hoc* subcommittees as needed.

ARTICLE III CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Section 1: Qualifications. All officers of the Central Committee must be a member of the Central Committee. No person shall hold more than one office of the Central Committee except that the same individual may simultaneously hold the offices of Treasurer and Secretary.

Section 2: Chairperson. The Chairperson of the Central Committee shall maintain and direct the operations of the local party and its headquarters in cooperation with the Executive Committee. The Chairperson shall perform all other duties prescribed by statute, this Constitution or usually exercised by a Chairperson, not inconsistent with this Constitution. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chairperson, the Secretary shall call a meeting of the Central Committee for the purpose of electing a new Chairperson. A vacancy will be deemed to occur in the office of the Chairperson when the Chairperson dies, resigns, is removed, loses his/her status as a member of the Central Committee, or is otherwise unable to fulfill his/her duties.

Section 3: Vice Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in the event of the Chairperson*s absence, death, removal from office, resignation, removal from committee membership, or inability to act. The Vice Chairperson shall continue to act until the return of the Chairperson or, if required, until a new Chairperson is elected and qualified.

Section 4: Secretary. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings and shall keep and be the custodian of the permanent books and records of the Central Committee except financial records. The Secretary shall deliver to his/her successor all minutes, books, records, and other instruments of writing belonging to the office.

Section 5: Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive all funds belonging to the Central Committee, keep proper books of account of all moneys received and paid out of all accounts. The Treasurer shall be fully accountable to the Central Committee for all acts and doings as Treasurer. The Treasurer shall deliver to his/her successor all ledgers, checkbooks, reports, records, and other instruments of writing belonging to the office.

Section 6: Compensation. No officer shall at any time, use his/her official position for private or personal financial gain; provided. However, the Chairperson of the Central Committee may accept reasonable fees or honoraria as well as reimbursement for expenses for speeches, lectures, seminar or panel participation, or for published writings and recordings.

Section 7: Removal. Any officer of the Central Committee may be removed by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at a regular meeting of the Central Committee or a special meeting called for such purpose; provided a quorum is present.

ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1: Composition of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members, each of whom shall be registered Republican residents of Darke County and shall pledge themselves to support the principals espoused in the Republican Platform as adopted by the delegates to the most recent quadrennial Republican National Convention and to assist in achieving the purposes of the Republican Party of Darke County described in Article I above:

- A. A Chairperson to be elected by the members of the Central Committee from the Darke County Republican Party.
- B. A Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer to be elected by the Executive Committee. Persons nominated to any of such offices need not previously be members of the Executive Committee, but, if not, shall become so as a result of having been so elected.
- C. All persons holding any federal, state, county or municipal public office ordinarily filled, or nominated, as the result of a partisan election, whether said person was elected or appointed to such office, shall be members *ex-officio*.

- D. One member to be chosen by, and from, the duly elected members of the Central Committee from the precincts located in the city of Greenville.
- E. One member to be chosen by, and from, the duly elected members of the Central Committee from the precincts located within the following townships, including any municipalities contained therein: Allen, Brown, Jackson, Liberty, Mississinawa and Washington, and to include Greenville Township precincts: West A and West B.
- F. One member to be chosen by, and from, the duly elected members of the Central Committee from the precincts located within the following townships, including any municipalities contained therein: Butler, Neave, Harrison and Van Buren, and to include Greenville Township precincts: East A and East B.
- G. One member to be chosen by, and from, the duly elected members of the Central Committee from the precincts located within the following townships, including any municipalities contained therein: Adams, Franklin, Monroe and Twin.
- H. One member to be chosen by, and from, the duly elected members of the Central Committee from the precincts located within the following townships, including any municipalities contained therein: Patterson, Richland, Wabash, Wayne and York.
- I. The President of the Darke County Republican Women's Club, shall be a member *ex-officio*, unless otherwise chosen or elected as provided herein.
- J. The President of the Darke County Republican Men's Club, shall be a member *ex-officio*, unless otherwise chosen or elected as provided herein.
- K. The President of the Darke County Young Republicans Club, shall be a member *ex-officio*, unless otherwise chosen or elected as provided herein.
- L. The Director, or Deputy Director as the case may be, of the Darke County Board of Elections, shall be a member *ex-officio*.
- M. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Central Committee shall be members *ex-officio*.
- N. The webmaster for www.darkegop.org shall be a member *ex-officio*.

No person shall hold more than one office of the Executive Committee except that the same individual may simultaneously hold the offices of Treasurer and Secretary. No officer of the Central Committee shall, at the same time, be an officer of the Executive Committee.

Section 2: Certification of Election of Representatives to the Executive Committee. The election of members to serve on the Executive Committee as provided in Article IV, Section 1(D-H) shall be made by those Central Committee members present at the organizational meeting described in Article II, Section 2. In the event at the organizational meeting no member is chosen to represent any of the grouped precincts on the Executive Committee, the concerned group of Central Committee members, on their own, or upon the call of the Chairperson of the Central Committee shall, within fifteen days of the organizational meeting, meet for such purpose. In the event no 21

meeting is held or for any other reason such precinct members can not, or do not, select a representative within fifteen days of the organizational meeting, the Chairperson of the Central Committee shall designate the representative for, and from, such group. The election results shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the Central Committee, signed by a majority of the members of each electing group, or where designated by the Chairman of the Central Committee, by such Chairman. The Secretary of the Central Committee shall provide a list of such representatives, or copies of all such certifications, to the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

Section 3: Organizational Meeting of the Executive Committee. Within two (2) weeks following the election of the members to serve on the Executive Committee as provided in Article IV, Section 1(D-H), the newly elected Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall call a meeting of the new Executive Committee for the purpose of electing its officers and otherwise organize.

Section 4: Meetings of Executive Committee. There shall be a regular monthly meeting of the Executive Committee to be held at a time selected by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may, by affirmative majority vote, change the date, time, or location of any regular scheduled meeting, or dispense with same. Special meetings may be held upon the call of the Chairperson or a majority of the voting membership of the Executive Committee. Only those matters on the agenda in the notice of the special meeting shall be considered and voted upon.

In the event of any change in the date, time or location, or the dispensing of, any regularly scheduled monthly meeting, the secretary shall, at least three (3) days in advance of such meeting, send to every member of the Executive Committee notice in writing of such change. The secretary shall, at least five (5) days prior to the date of any special meeting, send to every voting member of the Executive Committee written notice stating therein the following:

- A. Who called the Special Meeting.
- B. The time and place of the Special Meeting.
- C. A detailed agenda of the matters to be discussed or voted upon.

A quorum shall be 25% of the members of the Executive Committee members and shall have the power to transact Committee business at any regular or special meeting.

Section 5: Action Without a Meeting. If the Chairperson deems a need for immediate action upon any matter which may otherwise be taken at a meeting of the Executive Committee, the same may be taken without a meeting upon the submission of a proposed written resolution to the voting members via email. Their assent/objection to its passage to be evidenced by their email return message prior to the date identified in the submission of the proposed resolution.

Section 6: Duties of Executive Committee; Standing Subcommittees. After the election of the Executive Committee, except as otherwise directed by the Central Committee, the Executive Committee shall have and exercise in cooperation with the Chairperson of the Central Committee all powers of the Republican Party of Darke County in the intervals between meetings of the Central Committee. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall appoint the following subcommittees:

- A. Budget and Finance. The Budget and Finance subcommittee shall conduct fund raising campaigns and provide for the ways and means to finance party activities. It shall not spend any funds, however, except those authorized by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee with the approval of the Executive Committee.

The Budget and Finance subcommittee shall consist of the Chairperson of the Central Committee, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Vice-Chairperson of the Central Committee, the Secretary of the Executive Committee and the Treasurer of the Executive Committee.

- B. Candidate Development. The Candidate Development subcommittee shall be comprised of the Chairperson of the Central Committee, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and such other persons as may be appointed thereto by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee. The Candidate Development subcommittee shall educate and assist Republican candidates to insure legally compliant and successful campaigns.

- C. Audit. The Audit subcommittee shall conduct audits of the finances and all accounts of the County Central and Executive Committees. Such audits shall be conducted annually prior to the first day of December in each year. In addition thereto, an audit shall be conducted at any time the person holding the office of Treasurer of the County Central or Executive Committee changes due to election or interim vacancy and prior to the assumption of duties by the successor Treasurer. Additional audits may be conducted at any other times as may be directed by the Executive Committee.

The Audit subcommittee shall consist of three (3) persons to be appointed by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee. Members of the Audit subcommittee need not be members of the Central or Executive Committees.

- D. Public Relations. The Public Relations subcommittee shall consist of the Chairpersons of the Central and Executive Committees along with such other members as they may appoint.

The duties of the Public Relations subcommittee include creating all news releases and advertisements relating to Darke County Republican Party events (both social and fund raising), its candidates and those describing the principals and goals of the Republican Party from the county to the national levels.

All articles or other matters which could be interpreted as representing the opinions of the Darke County Republican Party shall be prepared by the Public Relations subcommittee; provided however, that other such articles or matters may be written by any member of the Central or Executive Committees and submitted for release to the news media without approval of the Public Relations subcommittee if first approved by the Executive Committee.

In addition to these standing subcommittees, the Chairperson on the Executive Committee may appoint special or *ad hoc* subcommittees as needed.

Section 7: Removal. Any elected or appointed member or officer of the Executive Committee may be removed from membership in the Executive Committee, and/or his or her office therein, by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the entire membership of the body originally electing or appointing such person as a member of the Executive Committee or to an office thereof. *Ex Officio* members of the Executive Committee shall be removed automatically upon his/her failure to maintain the office by which he/she became a member and may be removed by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the entire membership of the Executive Committee.

Section 8: Executive Committee Vacancies. Vacancies on the Executive Committee shall be filled by the person or body originally appointing the vacant member as provided in Article IV, Section 1. The Chairperson of the Central Committee shall have power to temporarily fill vacancies in the Executive Committee of those members elected thereto as provided in Article IV, Section 1(D -H) until the next meeting of the Central Committee at which vacancies among the members elected from the townships and municipal districts shall be filled.

Section 9: Recommendation for Appointment of Member of Board of Elections. Not more than sixty (60) and not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the expiration date of the term of office of a member of the Board of Elections; or within fifteen (15) days after a vacancy occurs in the Board of Elections, the Executive Committee shall convene a meeting for the purpose of selecting and filing a recommendation with the Secretary of State for the appointment of a qualified elector to serve on the Darke County Board of Elections. All members of the Executive Committee shall be notified by First Class United States mail at least five (5) days prior to the meeting for such recommendation and notified of the purpose of the meeting. All other provisions of these Constitution and Bylaws relative to the conduct of the meetings of the Executive Committee notwithstanding, a quorum of the Executive Committee at a meeting called for such purpose shall consist of no less than 50% of all members of the Executive Committee, which members may be present at the meeting in person or by proxy. A proxy vote stating the Executive Committee member's choice for a person to be recommended and containing the member's signature may be submitted in writing through any other member personally present at the meeting. The results of the vote shall be certified to the Ohio Secretary of State immediately and signed by the Chairperson and Secretary of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Section 1: Limitation. No person shall hold more than one office of the Executive Committee except that the same individual may simultaneously hold the offices of Treasurer and Secretary.

Section 2: Chairperson. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall call all meetings necessary to transact the business of the Executive Committee, and preside thereat, and administer the affairs of the committee. The Chairperson shall perform all other duties prescribed by statute, this Constitution or usually exercised by a Chairperson not inconsistent with this Constitution. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall be the designated representative of the Darke County Republican Party to the Ohio Republican Party.

Section 3: Vice Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in the event of the Chairperson*s absence, death, removal from office, resignation, removal from committee membership, or inability to act. The Vice Chairperson shall continue to act until the return of the Chairperson or, if required, until a new Chairperson is elected and qualified. The Vice Chairperson shall act as program coordinator of the Central and Executive Committees, cooperating with other recognized clubs in the county and state to ensure smooth program operations throughout the county.

Section 4: Secretary. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings and shall keep and be the custodian of the permanent books and records of the Executive Committee except financial records. The Secretary shall deliver to his/her successor all minutes, books, records, and other instruments of writing belonging to the office.

Section 5: Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive all funds belonging to the Executive Committee, keep proper books of account on all moneys received and paid out of all accounts. The Treasurer shall be fully accountable to the Executive Committee for all acts and doings as Treasurer. The Treasurer shall deliver to his/her successor all ledgers, checkbooks, reports, records, and other instruments of writing belonging to the office.

Section 6: Compensation. No officer shall at any time, use his/her official position for private or personal financial gain. However, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee may accept reasonable fees or honoraria as well as reimbursement for expenses for speeches, lectures, seminar or panel participation, or for published writings and recordings.

ARTICLE VI NOTICES AND RULES OF ORDER

All notices required herein may be given by depositing same in the first class United States Mail, postage pre-paid, at least five days prior to the meeting or other action for which the notice is provided. Alternatively, all such notices may be given by way of standard or internet e-mail posted on the sender's outgoing mail server at least five days prior to the meeting or other action for which the notice is provided.

The proceedings of all meetings of the Central and Executive Committees shall be in accordance with the most current edition of Robert*s Rules of Order unless otherwise specified herein.

All meetings of the Central and Executive Committees shall be opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and may be followed with prayer.

ARTICLE VII
AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Central Committee by the vote of two-thirds of all of the members of the Committee, or it may be amended at any meeting of the Committee by a vote of a majority of the members present provided that written notice of the proposed change shall have been given in the notice of the meeting. A copy of this Constitution and any amendments thereto shall be filed with the Secretary of State within thirty days after adoption.

Adopted July 2, 2001
Amended March 29, 2004
Amended August 9, 2004
Amended September 25, 2006
Amended July 18, 2022
Amended December 16, 2024