

**CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF  
WALWORTH COUNTY**

**PREAMBLE**

With dedication to the principles of inherent individual freedom, initiative, and responsibility, sovereignty of the States, and of delegated, Constitutionally limited governmental powers, we, the members of the Republican Party of Walworth County, pledge our devotion to those high ideals that have made America and Americanism the envy and the inspiration of the world. As our State and Federal Constitution create and direct our governments, so this, our Party Constitution, creates and directs our party organization toward the ultimate goal of maximizing and protecting individual freedom for the citizens of our county, our State and our Republic.

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of the organization shall be the Republican Party of Walworth County, henceforth known as the RPWC.

**ARTICLE II: POWERS**

The powers of the RPWC shall be to direct, manage, supervise, and control its business, property, and funds, and carry out its objectives.

**ARTICLE III: OBJECTIVES**

- A. To develop a county-wide, intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable voluntary Republican organization;
- B. To provide through this organization a practical program for the betterment of the Republican Party, the County of Walworth, and the various political subdivisions of that County;
- C. To aid in every honorable way fundamental conservative Republican principles, tenets, and policies;
- D. To aid and assist in all local, county, state, and national partisan elections; and
- E. To engage in such civic activities as will promote increased membership in the Party while simultaneously expanding the conservative voting base.

## **ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1.**

Any resident of Walworth County who is eligible to vote in Wisconsin state elections is eligible for membership in the RPWC.

### **Section 2. Expel and Readmit**

Any member may be readmitted or expelled from membership in this organization by a two-thirds vote of the membership after an opportunity is given for a hearing before said body. Upon the finding by the membership of conduct or declarations contrary to the objectives of this organization the member may be expelled. Expulsion is for a time period not less than two (2) years from the date of expulsion. If the expelled member desires membership at the end of the expulsion period they must provide a written request to the Executive Committee requesting reinstatement of their membership.

Robert's Rules of Order, Article XIII applies.

### **Section 3. Dues**

Annual membership dues shall be assessed each member. The amount of the assessment shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

### **Section 4. Nondiscrimination**

There shall be no discrimination as to race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, or national origin in the membership of this organization.

### **Section 5. Membership Record**

A record of every member of this organization shall be kept in the office of the Secretary of the RPWC or as designated by the Executive Committee.

### **Section 6. Applications**

Application for membership must be submitted on the form(s) approved by the Executive Committee.

### **Section 7. Duration**

Membership is based on a calendar year.

## **ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **Section 1. How Constituted**

The Executive Board of the RPWC shall be comprised of a Chairperson, the Immediate Past Chairperson, a First Vice-Chairperson, a Second Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

### **Section 2. Powers**

The Executive Board shall have control and management of all day to day affairs, properties, and funds for paying of bills of the RPWC.

### **Section 3. Meetings**

The Executive Board shall meet at such times and places as prescribed in the Bylaws. The presence of four (4) or more members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting of the organization's business.

### **Section 4. Executive Board Endorsements**

The officers constituting the Executive Board shall have no authority to endorse candidates for any public office on behalf of the RPWC. Such power may be exercised only by a meeting of the members. Additionally, said officers may endorse as an individual without use of any RPWC titles.

### **Section 5. Removal/Resignation from Office**

Any Officer or appointee of the RPWC who is either arrested or convicted of a criminal in nature matter shall be removed from office by a majority vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the membership of which such actions are an agenda item.

Any Officer or appointee of the RPWC who switches political parties, engages in activities contrary to Article III Objectives of this Constitution and the related Bylaws shall be removed from office by a majority vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the membership of which such actions are an agenda item.

Any Officer or appointee absent from 4 or more scheduled meetings in a 6 month period shall be considered to have resigned their office.

## **ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Section 1. How Constituted**

The Executive Committee of the RPWC shall be comprised of a Chairperson, the Immediate Past Chairperson, a First Vice-Chairperson, a Second Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer, together with the chairperson of the Membership, Finance, Campaign and Elections, and Multimedia and Technology Committees, qualified and selected in accordance with the Bylaws and in the manner herein after designated.

### **Section 2. Powers**

The Executive Committee shall be consulted in matters that impact the functions, overall members, and overarching activities of the County Party; and shall have authority to certify all appointments of a political nature which the RPWC is called to make and have such added powers as maybe fixed by the Bylaws.

### **Section 3. Meetings**

The Executive Committee shall meet at such times and places as prescribed in the Bylaws. The presence of six (6) or more members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business of the organization.

### **Section 4. Executive Committee Endorsements**

The officers constituting the Executive Committee shall have no authority to endorse candidates for any public office on behalf of the RPWC. Such power may be exercised only by a meeting of the members. Additionally, said officers may endorse as an individual without use of any RPWC titles.

### **Section 5. Removal/Resignation of Appointment**

Any appointee of the RPWC who is either arrested or convicted of a criminal in nature matter shall be removed from office. Since they are an appointee, the RPWC Chairman may take such actions with the consent of the Executive Board.

Any appointee of the RPWC who switches political parties, engages in activities contrary to Article III Objectives, of this constitution Since they are an appointee, the RPWC Chairman may take such actions with the consent of the Executive Board.

Any appointee absent from 4 or more scheduled meetings in a 6 month period shall be considered to have resigned their office.

## **ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS**

### **Section 1. Officers**

The officers of the RPWC shall be: a Chairperson, a First Vice-Chairperson, a Second Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and the Immediate Past Chairperson as described in Articles V and VI above and such other officers as may be provided for in the Bylaws.

### **Section 2. Qualifications**

Each officer shall be a member in good standing of the RPWC and shall continue as such throughout his or her term. Additionally, no person elected to office within a political party or partisan public office may serve as an Officer of the RPWC as prescribed in Article VIII below.

### **Section 3. Election of Officers**

The Chairperson, First Vice-Chairperson, Second Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as are provided in the Constitution shall be elected in odd numbered years at the County Caucus, in the manner provided in the Bylaws, and they shall serve a period of two years and until successors are elected and qualified. The Immediate Past Chairperson as long as they are not elected to another office and willing and able to serve, shall serve as an officer of the RPWC until the election of new Chairperson. If the Immediate Past Chair is unwilling or unable to serve, a Member At-Large will be appointed to fill the vacancy.

### **Section 4. Succession of Officers**

In the event the Chairperson is unable to serve or resigns while in office, the First Vice-Chairperson will assume all duties and responsibility of the Chairperson. In the event the First Vice Chairperson is unable to perform the duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson, the Second Vice Chairperson will assume said duties. That person will remain as the Chairperson to fulfill the remainder of the existing term of office. Additional vacancies will be filled in accordance with the Bylaws Article III Section 5 "Vacancies".

### **Section 5. Executive Secretary**

The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint an Executive Secretary and fix his or her salary and shall have the power to fix the compensation of such other employees as in its judgment maybe necessary.

### **Section 6. Compensation**

All officers' except the Executive Secretary shall serve without compensation. No officer shall accept any compensated employment from the Republican Party of Wisconsin, the

RPWC, or from any candidate or group of candidates for public office; nor from any organization sponsoring any measure, which appears on any ballot. However, officers may be reimbursed for some personal expenses they personally incur while attending meetings of the Republican Party of Wisconsin and representing the RPWC in an official capacity. Requests for reimbursement must be in writing, signed, and dated by the person requesting same and turned in to the Treasurer who in-turn will turn them over to the Finance Committee for consideration. Requested for re-imbursments must be approved by the Finance Committee and submitted to the Executive Board who will determine the matter and direct the Treasurer to action. Such reimbursements must be presented via an agenda item and at a regular membership meeting and entered into the minutes of that meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII: PARTISAN PUBLIC OFFICE**

### **Section 1. Elected Public Officials**

No officer of the RPWC or any member of its Executive Board shall hold or be a candidate for any elective, partisan public office. In the event said member becomes an elected partisan public office holder or candidate for any partisan public office his or her term of office on the Executive Board of the RPWC shall automatically terminate upon filing the appropriate candidacy documents with the State of Wisconsin or appropriate clerk.

## **ARTICLE IX: MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Parliamentary**

All meetings of the RPWC shall be held as provided in the Bylaws and conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.

### **Section 2. Notice**

All membership meetings of the RPWC shall have at least 21 days notice.

### **Section 3. Quorum**

A quorum for a meeting or caucus for this organization shall be a number no less than 10 members.

### **Section 4. Voting at Meetings**

New or suspended member(s) shall not be eligible to vote at any meeting unless he or she has been a member in good standing for a period of 30 calendar days prior to the date of the vote, inclusive of the day of enrollment. However, renewing members in good standing must renew either in person or postmarked not less than 7 calendar days prior to the date of the meeting in order to vote.

**Section 5. Election of Delegates**

The date of the meeting for the membership for the election of delegates to the State or National Republican Convention shall be determined by the date of the State Republican Convention.

**Section 6. County Caucus**

The County Caucus shall be held prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>, of each year and at least 21 days notice will be given. To be eligible to vote at the County Caucus a member must comply with Article, Section 4. "Voting at Meetings" requirements.

**Section 7. Proxy and or Electronic (email or Facebook etc...) Message Voting.**

a. Proxy Voting

In the event a member of the Executive Board or Executive Committee is unable to attend a meeting of the Executive Board or Executive Committee, that person may either in typed letter or electronic form, to all Executive Board or Executive Committee members appoint another Executive Board or Executive Committee member to speak and vote on their behalf. Proxy voting during a Biennial, Annual, Special, or Regular meeting is not allowed.

b. Electronic (email, Facebook, text, etc...) Message Voting

Conducting RPWC business via electronic means (email, Facebook, text, etc...) requiring a motion and subsequent vote(s) is not allowed. This does not include teleconference, video conference, call-ins, or conference calls of the Executive Board or the Executive Committee. However, opinions may be sought via the above means but no RPWC business is to be conducted. A quorum for such meetings via the above approved methods shall be established by conducting a roll call, and once established, shall be presumed present until the meeting is adjourned. Not less than 21 days notice shall be given. A simple majority vote of the quorum is required for adoption of any motion.

**ARTICLE X: CONVENTION DELEGATES**

**Section 1.**

The selection of delegates and alternates to the State and National Republican Convention shall be in accordance with the Constitution of the Republican Party of Wisconsin and as directed as to the quota of delegates and alternates by the State Republican Committee.

## **ARTICLE XI: COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1. Standing Committees**

The standing committees, as prescribed in the Bylaws, shall be appointed by the Chairperson and they shall perform such duties as may be defined in the Bylaws and as may be directed by the Executive Board. Included in the standing committees shall be Membership, Finance, Campaign and Elections, and Multimedia and Technology.

### **Section 2. Special Committees**

Special committees shall be appointed by the RPWC Chairperson whenever it may be deemed necessary or advisable by the Executive Board or Executive Committee and they shall perform such duties as may be directed by the Executive Board or Executive Committee.

### **Section 3. Annual Meeting (Caucus) Committees**

a) The Chairperson shall appoint, at least two weeks before the date of the Biennial meeting (odd numbered years) of the membership, a Nominating Committee of not less than three or not more than five members who shall immediately organize and at the Biennial meeting shall report their nominations for officers. At the Biennial meeting, additional nominations may be made from the floor.

b) The Chairperson shall also appoint, at least two weeks before the date of the Annual meeting of the membership the following additional committees to consist of at least three and no more than five members who shall immediately organize and conduct their required business. The additional committees shall be the Resolutions, Rules, and Constitution and By-laws Committees. The committees shall report to the membership at the Annual meeting the results of their deliberations. The committee reports shall be acted upon by the membership at the Annual meeting.

## **ARTIVAL XII: Parliamentary Authority**

“Roberts Rules of Order, Newly revised” shall govern all proceedings except as where inconsistent with this constitution.

## **ARTICLE XIII: AMBIGUITY**

In the event an ambiguity or question of interpretation arises under this Constitution, the Constitution of the Republican Party of Wisconsin shall prevail.



#### **ARTICLE XIV: BYLAWS**

Bylaws not inconsistent with this Constitution and with the Constitution of the Republican Party of Wisconsin shall be adopted and may be amended from time to time at any meeting of the general membership of the RPWC by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and shall take effect upon passage.

#### **ARTICLE XV: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended in any manner not inconsistent with the Constitution of the Republican Party of Wisconsin at any meeting of the members of the RPWC by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present, provided that the call of the meeting shall have included notice of the amendment(s).

#### **ARTICLE XVI: Typographical or Notational Error**

Any typographical or notational error found in the text of this Constitution and/or any approved constitutional revision may be corrected by RPWC officers provided that such correction does not alter the intent or purpose.

#### **ARTICLE XVII: SUPERCEDING GOVERNANCE**

Upon adoption and approval of this Constitution, any and all previous constitutions and by-laws of this organization are null and void.

Revised 09-25-2014

Adopted 10-01-2015

Amended 02-01-2018

Amended 02-07-2019

Amended Draft 12-17-19

Adopted in Caucus on 02-06-2020