

CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

OF

CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO

Adopted: March 16, 1988

Effective: May 3, 1988

Modified: October 18, 1995

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Modified: May 18, 2005

Effective: January 1, 2006

The Republican Central Committee, duly elected, of Clermont County, Ohio, in accordance with the statutes of the State of Ohio, hereby makes, ordains and establishes the **Constitution** of the Republican Party of Clermont County, Ohio.

ARTICLE I

The purpose of The Clermont County Republican Party Constitution shall be to assist and/or support the securing of the most capable, honest, and forward-looking administration of government at **all levels**: National, State, County, Township, City and Village, in accordance with the principles of the Republican Party as enunciated by the National, State and County Committees of our Party.

ARTICLE II

Section 1

(A) The Clermont County Republican Central Committee (hereinafter "Republican Central Committee") shall consist of the duly elected person from each precinct in Clermont County for a term of four (4) years.

The Republican Central Committee shall also consist of those persons duly appointed by the elected members of it, in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and this Constitution to fill any vacancy in any precinct in Clermont County, Ohio. The word "committeeman" shall be interpreted to

include "committeewoman" and the plurals thereof, as provided in Section 3517.04 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio.

(B) Not earlier than six (6) days nor later than fifteen (15) days following the declaration of the results by the board of election of members of county central committees in that county, the Chairman of the outgoing Republican Central Committee shall call a meeting of the newly-elected members of the new Republican Central Committee, and shall act as Chairman of such meeting with the Secretary of the outgoing Republican Central Committee acting as the Secretary of such called meeting.

(C) At the reorganization meeting, a quorum of the newly-elected members shall be at least 15% of said newly elected members, or as otherwise provided by the laws of the State of Ohio.

(D) At the reorganization meeting, the newly elected Republican Central Committee shall, by secret ballot, elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. All officers elected at this time shall be duly elected members of the Republican Central Committee. The secretary shall forthwith, upon election of such officers, comply with Section 3517.06 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio.

(E) Such officers shall serve until their successors are elected by the Republican Central Committee in accordance with Section 3517.05 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio and the Constitution.

(F) All Republican Central Committee records and Treasurer's accounts shall be turned over to the newly-elected officers of the Republican Central Committee within thirty (30) days after said election. The Treasurer's accounts shall be audited within this thirty (30) day period. The newly-elected Treasurer shall comply with all applicable reporting requirements set forth in the Revised Code of the State of Ohio.

(G) Beginning with the first meeting after the reorganization meeting, appointments may be made to fill vacancies caused by death, resignation, failure to elect, or removal from the precinct or township from which a committeeman

was chosen. The Republican Central Committee shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the members present of such committee. If any individual who resides within the precinct in which the vacancy exists personally appears before a regularly scheduled Republican Central Committee meeting, applies for the position of Central Committeeman from this precinct, and establishes his or her qualifications to a majority of those voting members present, then that person shall be appointed to fill the vacancy. Otherwise, appointees must reside within the township in which they are appointed precinct committeeman, and may be appointed upon the recommendation of the township executive of the township in which the vacancy exists.

(H) The Treasurer will be responsible for all funds of the Republican Central Committee and shall keep accounts of such funds and receipts and disbursements.

(I) The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Republican Central Committee, which shall be open for inspection by any lawful member of said committee, at all reasonable times, and the Secretary shall also be designated as Secretary of the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall also provide a copy of the minutes to the Chairman, Treasurer and members of the Executive Committee prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Republican Central Committee.

(J) After the Republican Central Committee is duly organized as herein provided, a quorum of said committee shall consist of fifteen percent of the current membership of said Republican Central Committee. Notices of all meetings of the Republican Central Committee may be by ordinary postal cards, or letter via U.S. Post Office, mailed to the last known address of each committee member appearing on the records of the Secretary. Each Committee member shall promptly notify the Secretary of any change of address. Such notices shall be mailed at least five (5) days before any called or regular meeting.

(K) The Chairman of the Republican Central Committee may appoint such Ad Hoc committees as may be deemed necessary from time to time. The Chairman shall serve as an ex-officio member of each such committee.

Section 2

(A) The method of scheduling regular meetings shall be determined and voted upon by a majority of those present at a Republican Central Committee meeting.

(B) The Chairman, or Vice-Chairman in the absence of the Chairman, shall preside at all meetings of the Republican Central Committee, except meetings called by the members themselves, as provided hereafter, at which one of the members shall preside. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman at the regular meeting, those present shall agree upon one of the members to preside.

(C) Special meetings of the Republican Central Committee may be called by the Chairman, or Vice-Chairman in the absence of the Chairman, and notice of such meeting shall be mailed to the last known address of all Committee members in the records of the Secretary, at least five (5) days before the date thereof, stating the time, place and purpose of such meeting, and no other business shall be conducted at such special meeting.

(D) An emergency meeting may be called by the Chairman, or Vice-Chairman in the absence of the chairman, provided at least two (2) members from each township are personally notified, one (1) of whom shall be the township Executive or Township Vice-Executive, and it shall be the duty of those two members to notify the other members of their Township precinct committee of the emergency meeting. Notification shall state the time, place, and purpose of such emergency meeting, and no other business shall be conducted at such emergency meeting. The quorum required at such emergency meeting shall remain the same as set forth in Article II, Section 1, Paragraph J.

(E) Upon refusal or failure of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Republican Central Committee to call regular meetings, said meetings may be called by written notice, signed by fifteen percent (15%) of the Republican Central Committee, which number must include signatures from a majority of the townships, deposited with the Secretary, and notice of such meeting shall be mailed to the last known address of each committee member, appearing in the records of the Secretary, by

the Secretary, at least five (5) days before the date thereof, stating the time and place of such meeting, and the names of the committee members calling the meeting.

ARTICLE III

Section 1

At the same time of the reorganizational meeting of the newly-elected Republican Central Committee as provided in Article II, Section 1 of this Constitution, the Republican Central Committee shall first elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Republican Party. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Republican Party shall serve as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee. The Secretary and Treasurer of the Republican Central Committee shall also serve as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Executive Committee. All officers shall be elected by Secret Ballot.

Section 2

(A) The Clermont County Republican Party Executive Committee, as provided for in Section 3517.03 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio, shall consist of one (1) duly elected Executive or Vice-Executive in the absence of the Executive, from each Township. Each such member shall be a member of the Republican Central Committee.

(B) In the event the Central Committeemen of any township fail to elect an Executive and/or Vice-Executive prior to the reorganizational meeting of the Executive Committee or within thirty (30) days of a vacancy arising in the office of Executive or Vice-Executive, then such election shall be made by a majority of the Executive Committee.

Section 3

Members of the Executive Committee shall serve until the first meeting of the newly-elected Republican Central Committee following the Republican primary in even-numbered years. A vacancy shall automatically be declared when any of the Executive Committeemen, elected from a particular township, moves from his or her precinct or township, dies or resigns as precinct committeeman.

Section 4

(A) The Executive Committee may elect such officers as it may deem necessary, who shall serve until the first meeting of the Executive Committee following the Republican Primary election of committeemen. The Executive Committee may appoint such Ad Hoc committees as necessary, who shall serve in a temporary position to accomplish their stated objectives.

(B) The Chairman shall appoint an Executive Assistant, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, who shall have such duties as the Chairman, shall prescribe.

(C) The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be known as the Chairman of the Clermont County Republican Party.

(D) The Executive Committee shall promote, organize and charter, such Republican Clubs as said committee shall deem necessary in promoting the Republican Party in Clermont County, and the Executive Committee may, by a majority vote, revoke the charter of any club which the Committee determines is not promoting the welfare of the Republican Party.

(E) The Executive Committee shall conduct and administer all duties pertaining to political campaigns, party headquarters and party publications, including news releases, which shall be issued in the name of the Chairman, or in the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman. The Chairman, or in his or her absence, the Vice-Chairman, shall at all times be the official spokesperson for the Clermont County Republican Party.

The decision to endorse any candidate shall be made according to the Endorsement Policy adopted by the Clermont County Republican Central Committee on May 18, 2005, effective January 1, 2006.

(F) The Executive Committee shall receive and disburse all funds. Receipts and expenditures shall be audited annually by a committee appointed by the Chairman of the Republican Central Committee. All party financial activities, for whatever purpose, shall be approved by the Executive Committee and within sixty (60) days after completion of the activity, a full financial report must be made to the Executive and Central Committees, and complete records of receipts and expenditures

shall be turned over to the Treasurer to become part of the Treasurer's records.

(G) The Executive Committee shall have a quorum when there are eight (8) members present.

Section 5

The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Executive Committee as may be established, pursuant to Article III, Section 4, of this Constitution.

Section 6

(A) Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or on written demand by any four (4) members of said Committee. Due notice of said meeting shall be given to all members thereof at least five (5) days in advance, by the Secretary, or other committee member in the event the Secretary fails or neglects to do so, in writing, by mailing the notice to the last known address as shown on the record of the Secretary.

Section 7

The proceedings of the Executive Committee shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be open for inspection by any Central Committee or Executive Committee member at all reasonable times. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with parliamentary rules as may from time to time be adopted by the Executive Committee or prescribed by the Republican Central Committee.

Section 8

The Executive Committee shall establish the platform, subject to ratification of the Republican Central Committee, upon which said Party candidates agree to run. The Executive Committee may appoint a County Campaign Chairman, in furtherance of the campaign, and said campaign Chairman or Chairwoman shall be responsible to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the collection of funds for the operation of the Party campaign and administration expenses, and for the budgeting and proper use of funds received and

expended and shall report to the Republican Central Committee within sixty (60) days after each general election.

Section 9

The Executive Committee shall designate the depositories of the funds of the Party and shall decide whether disbursement of such funds shall be made upon the signature of the Treasurer alone, or co-signed by the Treasurer and some other designated member of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1

(A) The Chairman of the committees appointed by the Republican Central Committee or Executive Committee must be a member of the Republican Central Committee.

(B) Proxy votes are not to be honored in either the Republican Central Committee or the Executive Committee at any time for any purpose. However, in the absence of a Township Executive, the Vice-Executive shall be permitted to vote in his or her stead.

(C) This Constitution may be amended at any time by the Republican Central Committee, provided the text of the proposed amendment has been given in the call of any meeting in which the proposed amendment will be put to a vote of the Republican Central Committee.

ARTICLE V

Section 1

(A) In the event a vacancy in the Office of County Commissioner, Prosecuting Attorney, County Auditor, County Treasurer, Sheriff, County Recorder, County Engineer, County Clerk of Courts, or Coroner occurs under circumstances which permit the selection of a successor by the Republican Central Committee under Section 305.02 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio, the Executive Committee shall act as a screening committee whose purpose shall be to interview those persons interested in such appointments and recommend to the Republican

Central Committee that person or persons who possess the necessary qualifications for the vacant position. The screening committee's recommendations are intended to provide assistance and guidance to the Republican Central Committee and in no event shall such recommendations restrict the ability of the Republican Central Committee, by majority vote, to appoint any person to such vacancy.

(B) In the event of a vacancy in the State House of Representative or Senate, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with Article II, Section 11 of the Ohio Constitution. If a recommendation for a qualified candidate is sought by either the House of Representatives or Senate, the screening committee shall consist of Executive Committee Members who reside in the district where the vacancy exists and the Party Chairman. The screening committee's recommendations are intended to provide assistance to the Republican Central Committee. The final decision and recommendation to the House or Senate shall be made by a majority vote of the Republican Central Committee members who reside in the district where the vacancy arose.

Section 2

In the event of a vacancy in any division of the Clermont County Court of Common Pleas, Municipal Court or the Twelfth District Court of Appeals, under circumstances which permit the appointment by the Governor of the State of Ohio to fill such vacancy under Article IV, Section 13 of the Constitution of the State of Ohio, and in the further event the Governor requests the recommendation of the Clermont County Republican Party for an appointee to fill the vacancy, the Executive Committee shall act as a screening committee whose purpose it shall be to interview those persons interested in such appointment and recommend to the Republican Central Committee that person or persons who possess the necessary qualifications for the vacant position. Such recommendations are intended to provide assistance and guidance to the Republican Central Committee. The final decision and recommendation to the Governor for such appointment shall be made by a majority vote of the Republican Central Committee.

Section 3

In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Elections, such vacancy shall be filled as set forth in Section 3501.07 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio.

Section 4

In the event the Chairman of the Clermont County Republican Party or the Chairman of the Republican Central Committee resigns, or for any other reason vacates the office, the respective Vice-Chairman shall assume the position of Chairman and shall serve in that capacity until the next scheduled meeting of the Republican Central Committee. At that meeting, the Republican Central Committee shall, by secret ballot, elect a new Chairman to fill the vacancy; and, if necessary, shall elect a new Vice-Chairman if a vacancy exists. If any other officer of the Republican Central or Executive Committee resigns, or for any other reason vacates an office, the respective Chairman of the Republican Central or Executive Committee may appoint an interim officer to fill such vacancy until the next scheduled meeting of the Republican Central Committee. At that meeting, the Republican Central Committee shall, by secret ballot, elect a person to fill the vacant office.

ARTICLE VI

This Constitution shall go into effect immediately upon its approval and adoption, which shall be at a meeting called for that express purpose, and at which no other business may be transacted, and only upon a majority vote of the Republican Central Committeemen present at such meeting. Notice of this meeting shall be given in writing by the Secretary of the Republican Central Committee pursuant to the provisions set forth in Article II, Section 1, Paragraph J of this Constitution.