

REPUBLICAN PARTY COUNTY PLAN OF ORGANIZATION
CABARRUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

PREAMBLE

We, the Members of the Republican Party of Cabarrus County, North Carolina dedicated to the sound principles fostered by that party, conscious of our civic responsibilities and rights, firm in our determination to give our strength to preserving the American principle that government ought and must be of all the people, by all of the people, and for all of the people do, for the purpose of uniting and coordinating our efforts for maximum power and efficiency, herewith establish this instrument, The Plan of Organization of the Republican Party of Cabarrus County, North Carolina.

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

1. Members

All citizens of Cabarrus County, North Carolina who are registered Republicans are Members of the Republican Party of Cabarrus County and shall have the right to participate in the official affairs of the Republican Party in accordance with these rules. All reference herein to Delegates, Alternates, Officers and Members shall, in all cases, mean persons identified and registered with the Republican Party in the Precinct of their residence by January 31 preceding the Precinct Meetings.

ARTICLE II - PRECINCT MEETINGS

1. Annual Precinct Meetings

- A. The County Chairman shall call Precinct Meetings during the month of February or the first 15 days of March, after giving 10 days written notice of the time and place of holding same to each Precinct Chairman, and by giving 10 days notice in a newspaper of general circulation as provided for in Article VII.4. Failure of the County Chairman to act in compliance with the provision above shall be cause for any Member of the County Executive Committee with the approval of the County Vice-Chairman to call said Precinct Meetings by notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the County. Every Republican registered in Cabarrus County prior to January 31 preceding the Precinct Meetings shall be entitled to cast 1 vote except that the January 31 Requirement shall not apply to residents who have moved into the Precinct within 30 days of the Precinct meeting.
- B. Precinct Meetings, at which a quorum is 1 person, shall in odd numbered years elect a Precinct Committee consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and as many Members-at-Large as deemed necessary to conduct the business of the Precinct. Members of the Precinct Committee shall hold their places for 2 years or until their successors are chosen. In all years, Precinct Meetings shall elect 1 Delegate and 1 Alternate to the County Convention. They shall also elect 1 additional Delegate and Alternate for each 100 registered Republican voters, or major fraction thereof, in the precinct as of January 31 of that year. No delegate or alternate shall be added to the credentials list following the adjournment of

the precinct meeting.

- C. The Chairman and Secretary of each Precinct shall certify the election of Officers, Committee Members, and Delegates and Alternates to the County Convention, on forms stipulated by the State Central Committee and furnished by the County Chairman. Complete credentials shall be in the hands of the County Secretary by the deadline set by the County Chairman, which shall be at least 2 days prior to the Credentials Committee Meeting; **provided, however, that when the Precinct Meetings and the County Convention are held on the same day, the complete credentials shall be in the hands of the County Secretary at the time set by the County Chairman on that day.**

2. Other Precinct Meetings

- A. Other meetings of the Precinct general Membership may be held at such time as shall be designated by the Chairman of the Precinct Committee after giving 5 days notice of such Meeting in a newspaper of general circulation within the County; or upon similar call of 1/3 of the Members of the Precinct Committee, or 10 Members of the general Precinct Membership. There shall be no proxy voting.
- B. In the event a Precinct is not properly organized or the Precinct Chairman fails to act, the County Chairman shall appoint a Temporary Precinct Committee to serve for a period not to exceed 60 days, during which time a County Executive Committee meeting shall be called and a new Precinct Chairman shall be elected by the County Executive Committee. All County Executive Committee members present at a County Executive Committee meeting called for the purpose of electing a new Precinct Chairman may vote in the election; there is no requirement for a voting County Executive Committee member to be registered in the precinct for which a new Precinct Chairman is being elected.

ARTICLE III - PRECINCT COMMITTEE

1. Duties of Committee

The Precinct Committee shall cooperate with the County Chairman and County Executive Committee in all elections and Party activities, provide the County Chairman with a list of Party Members within the Precinct suitable for appointment as Election Officials, and promote the objectives of the Party within the Precinct.

2. Duties of Officers

The Chairman of the Precinct Committee, with the advice and consent of the Precinct Committee, shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Party within the Precinct, shall preside at all Meetings of the Precinct, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Precinct Committee or the County Executive Committee. The Vice- Chairman shall function as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman. The

Secretary shall keep all minutes and records and shall maintain a list of registered Republican voters and workers within the Precinct.

3. Vacancies and Removals

- A. In case of death, resignation, discontinuance of residency within the Precinct, removal of any Officer or Member of the Precinct Committee, or other vacancy, the resulting vacancy shall be filled by the remaining Members of the Precinct Committee.
- B. Any Member of the Precinct Committee may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the Precinct Committee after being furnished with notice of the charges against him, signed by not less than 1/3 of the Members of the Precinct Committee and allowing him 20 days to appear and defend himself; provided further that said cause for removal shall be confined to gross inefficiency, Party disloyalty or failure to comply with the County or State Party Plans of Organization. Such removal may be appealed to the County Executive Committee within 20 days, and their decision shall be final.
- C. For the purposes of this Plan of Organization, "Party disloyalty" shall be defined as actively supporting a candidate of another party or independent candidate running in opposition to a nominee of the Republican Party or a Republican endorsed by the appropriate Executive Committee in a non-partisan election.

ARTICLE IV - COUNTY CONVENTIONS

1. Annual Conventions

- A. A County Convention shall be called every year by the Chairman of the County Executive Committee, within the month of March, at least 10 days prior to the scheduled District Convention, and after giving 10 days notice of such Convention in a newspaper of general circulation within the County. At or about the time of the call of the Convention, the County Chairman shall appoint a Credentials Committee, which will meet and issue its report on Delegates and Alternates certified to that Convention. **If Precinct Meetings are held prior to the County Convention, the Credentials Committee shall issue its report on Delegates and Alternates certified to the County Convention at least 3 days in advance of the convening of the County Convention, unless the County holds its Precinct meetings and County Convention on the same day. When Precinct Meetings are held prior to the date of the County Convention, all Delegates and Alternates Challenged in the report of the Credentials Committee shall be notified prior to the day of the Convention and allowed to present their case to the Credentials Committee prior to the convening of the Convention. The Delegates and Alternates elected at the Biennial Precinct Meetings, unless successfully challenged, shall sit as Delegates and Alternates to the County Convention. If Precinct Meetings and the County Convention are held concurrently on the same day, the Credentials Committee shall issue its report**

on Delegates and Alternates certified to the County Convention prior to the transaction of any business at the County Convention. When Precinct Meetings are held concurrently on the same day with the County Convention, all Delegates and Alternates challenged in the report of the Credentials Committee shall be notified on that day and allowed to present their case to the Credentials Committee.

- B. If the County Chairman fails, refuses or neglects to call a County Convention as required by this Article, it shall become the duty of the Vice-Chairman to act in this capacity. The Vice-Chairman shall give 5 days notice of such Convention in a newspaper of general circulation within the County. If the County Chairman or Vice-Chairman does not call such a Meeting, it shall be cause for any Member of the County Executive Committee with the approval of the Congressional District Chairman to call such County Convention.

C. Convention Actions

1. Plan of Organization

The County Convention shall adopt or amend a written County Plan of Organization not inconsistent with the State Plan of Organization, a current copy of which shall be on file at County Headquarters and at State Headquarters. If the County Convention fails to adopt a written County Plan of Organization, the previously adopted County Plan of Organization shall remain in effect, to the extent not inconsistent with this State Plan of Organization. If a County has never adopted a County Plan of Organization and fails to adopt a written County Plan of Organization at a County Convention, the State Plan of Organization shall control.

2. Elections

- a. In every odd numbered year, the County Convention shall elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, a Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer and such other Officers as may be deemed necessary, who shall serve for a term of 2 years or until their successors are elected.
- b. In every odd numbered year, the County Convention shall elect a County Executive Committee of 14 members, in addition to the County Officers, who shall hold their places for a term of 2 years or until their successors are elected.
- c. The Plan of Organization shall provide for the organization of a Steering Committee composed of the Chairman or representative from each Precinct and the County Executive Committee. The purpose of the Steering Committee will be to strengthen the

precinct structure and to advise and support the County Party functions.

- d. The County Convention shall, in accordance with the County Plan of Organization, elect 1 Delegate and 1 Alternate to the Congressional District and State Conventions, plus 1 additional Delegate and Alternate for every 250 Republicans, or major fraction thereof, registered in the county, as of January 1 of that year. The County shall further elect 1 Delegate and 1 Alternate for each Republican elected to the state legislature and to public office on the state or national level from the County in the last election held for that office. No Delegates or Alternates shall be added to the credentials list following the adjournment of the County Convention.
- e. County Delegate vote will be prorated between the 8th and the 12th Congressional Districts in accordance with the votes cast for the Republican gubernatorial candidate in the last election in those Congressional Districts. Delegates elected to a Congressional District Convention, in addition to the other qualifications which they must meet, must reside in the Congressional District to whose Convention they are elected. The Delegates to the County Convention from the political subdivisions in different Congressional Districts shall elect the Delegates to their own Congressional District Convention.

D. Credentials

The Chairman and Corresponding Secretary of the County Executive Committee shall certify the election of Officers, Committee Members, Delegates and Alternates to the District and State Conventions, on forms furnished by the State Central Committee. Completed Credentials shall be in the hands of the Congressional District Secretary and the State Headquarters by the deadline set by the State Chairman. All County Credentials for the State Convention should be mailed to State Headquarters no later than 10 days following the date of the County Convention or the deadline set by the State Chairman, whichever dates comes first.

2. \$1.00 Fee

For each person who is elected at a County Convention to be either a Delegate or an Alternate to the State Convention, the County shall forward to the State Party \$1.00 to defray the costs of mailing Convention materials to such elected Delegates and Alternates. A \$1.00 fee will be required from the Delegates and Alternates attending the District and State Conventions.

ARTICLE V - COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Membership

The County Executive Committee shall consist of the County Officers and other persons elected by the County Convention in accordance with Article IV, and the County Finance Chairman. In addition, the immediate past County Chairman, and the Presidents (2) from the Men's and Women's organizations shall serve as Ex-Officio voting members of the County Executive Committee.

2. Powers and Duties

The County Executive Committee shall cooperate with the District and State Committees in all elections and Party activities; may endorse qualified candidates for all elections within the County; adopt a budget; and shall recommend nominees to the State Chairman for appointments for County Board of Election; and shall have active management of Party affairs within the County. The County Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be Ex-Officio members of all Committees. In the event that it is determined that the County Plan of Organization is not consistent with the State Party Plan of Organization, the County Executive Committee must at the next called meeting bring the County Plan of Organization into compliance with the State Party Plan of Organization. Under any circumstances, the County Plan of Organization must be brought into compliance within 90 days.

The County Executive Committee may amend the County Plan of Organization upon a 2/3 vote after providing notice via first class United States Mail of the meeting advising Members regarding the substance of the proposed amendment and provided a quorum is present.

3. Meetings

The County Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year upon call of the County Chairman after giving 10 days notice to all Members, or upon similar call of 1/3 of the Members of the Committee. One half of the Members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. There shall be no proxy voting.

4. Duties of Officers

- A. The Chairman of the County Executive Committee, with the advice and consent of the County Executive Committee, shall have general supervision of the affairs for the Party within the County. He shall issue the call for Precinct Meetings, the County Convention, and Executive Committee Meetings, and the Chairman shall preside at all of the Meetings of the County Executive Committee. He shall appoint a Finance Chairman, Auditing Committee (subject to the advice and consent of the County Executive Committee) and any other committees the Chairman deems necessary to conduct the business of the County Executive Committee. He shall further appoint a Temporary Chairman of the County Convention, who may be himself. He shall make periodic reports on the status of the Party within the County to the District Chairman. He shall be responsible for

the creation and maintenance of a Republican organization in every Precinct within the County. He shall obtain and preserve a list of all registered Republicans within the County and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the County, district, or State Committees.

- B. The Vice-Chairman shall function as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman and shall have such other duties as may be prescribed by the County Executive Committee.
- C. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of minutes of all meetings and shall maintain a roster of all Precinct Officers and the Executive Committee Members. The Corresponding Secretary will be responsible for all Party correspondence, prepare all necessary reports, including credentials lists to the proper authority. The Secretary shall furnish to the Congressional District Chairman and to State Headquarters up-to-date lists of all Precinct Chairmen, Delegates and Alternates to the District and State Conventions.
- D. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds for Party expenditures pursuant to authority duly given by the County Executive Committee, shall make a financial report at all County Executive Committee Meetings and shall fulfill all financial reports and obligations required under State and Federal election laws.

5. Vacancies and Removals

- A. In case of death, resignation, discontinuance of residency within the County, removal of any Officer or Member of the County Executive Committee, or other vacancy, the resulting vacancy shall be filled by the County Executive Committee.
- B. Any Officer or Member of the County Executive Committee may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the Committee after being furnished with notice of the charges against him, signed by not less than 1/3 of the Members of the Committee and allowing him 30 days to appear and defend himself; provided further that said cause for removal shall be confined to gross inefficiency, Party disloyalty, or failure to act in compliance with the County or State Plans of Organization. Such removal may be appealed within 20 days to the Congressional District Chairman and Members of the State Executive Committee within the District, and their decision shall be final.
- C. In the event a County Executive Committee Member is unable to fulfill the duties of their office, such member shall notify the County Chairman of their desire to discontinue service on the Committee. County Executive Board members will lose membership on the board after three (3) unexcused absences of properly notified board meetings during the two year term of office. Absences may be excused by notifying the County Chairman prior to the meeting. Any member who is absent for three consecutive meetings shall have automatically resigned from the Executive Committee.

- D. For the purposes of the Plan of Organization, "Party disloyalty" shall be defined as supporting a candidate of another Party or independent candidate running in opposition to a nominee of the Republican Party or a Republican endorsed by the appropriate Executive Committee in a non-partisan election.

ARTICLE VI - COUNTY FINANCE AND AUDITING COMMITTEES

1. Finance Committee

The County Finance Committee shall be composed of the County Finance Chairman, the County Chairman, County Vice-Chairman, the County Treasurer, and not less than 3 persons approved by the County Executive Committee. They shall cooperate with the Congressional District and State Finance Committees and shall have active management of fund-raising efforts within the County.

2. Audit Committee

The Auditing Committee, appointed by the County Chairman, shall conduct a yearly audit of the financial records of the County and report such audit to the County Executive Committee for approval.

ARTICLE VII - GENERAL CONVENTION PROCEDURES

1. Annual Convention

The County Convention shall be called to order by the Chairman, or in the absence of the Chairman, by the Vice-Chairman or the Secretary, in order stated, who shall have the power to appoint the necessary Convention Committees and Temporary Officers at or before the convening of the Convention.

2. Voting Procedure

No Delegate, Alternate or any other Member of a Convention shall cast any vote by proxy, provided, however, that any Delegate or Delegates present shall have the right to report the entire vote of the Precinct in County Conventions. No Precinct shall cast more votes than it has duly elected Delegates on the floor at the County Convention. No person shall be seated as a Delegate at any County, District or State Convention unless such person shall have been duly elected a Delegate or Alternate by the appropriate Precinct Meeting or County Convention, except, the registered Republican or Republicans, present at a County Convention from an unorganized Precinct, which has not had its credentials accepted, shall have the right to vote 1 vote per Precinct, prorated among those present from that Precinct. In any County Convention only Delegates present on the floor are eligible to vote.

3. General Election Procedure

Notwithstanding any other Article in this Plan of Organization, the Delegate and Alternate slots allocated for the County shall be filled first by the election of duly

qualified registered Republicans, eligible to vote and present at the Convention and desiring to be elected to fill such slots. No one shall be eligible for or elected as a Delegate or Alternate who is not present at the Convention to the exclusion of a duly qualified Republican present at the Convention.

4. Newspaper of Circulation

Notice published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County for the purpose of this Plan of Organization, shall include either a paid advertisement or a news item, provided it includes the time, date, location and purpose of the meeting. This in no way relieves the Chairman of the responsibility of the notice.

5. Non-Partisan Candidates and Office Holders

No Candidate or Office Holder of a Non-Partisan Office who is not a registered Republican shall be allowed to address the County Convention or any of its subdivisions or any function sponsored by the county party.

ARTICLE VIII - FORFEITURE OF OFFICIAL PRIVILEGES

Any Officer, Member of a Precinct Committee or County Executive Committee, who, for any reason, is removed or resigns from said position shall forfeit all rights and privileges in any way connected with that position.

ARTICLE IX - ENDORSEMENTS IN NON-PARTISAN ELECTIONS

1. In non-partisan elections, district and county executive committees shall have exclusive authority to endorse registered Republicans running in that district or county. Political subdivision executive committees (i.e., County Executive Committee) shall not issue endorsements in non-partisan races unless the District resides entirely within the County, in which case only members of the County Executive Committee residing within the district may vote.
2. In non-partisan, statewide judicial elections, the NCGOP State Executive Committee shall have the exclusive authority to endorse registered Republicans. Political subdivisions executive committees (i.e., County Executive Committees, Congressional District Executive Committees, etc) shall not issue endorsements of non-partisan, statewide judicial candidates inconsistent with the State Executive Committee endorsements.
3. With respect to any endorsement provided for in this section, and unless otherwise provided by law, notice to committee members of the time, date, location, and purpose of the meeting at which any such endorsement will be considered must be made by United States Mail to the last known address of the committee member. Notice must be mailed at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting, unless good cause exists for shortening the time period. In no case may the meeting be scheduled for a time and date less than (5) days after the notice to committee members. Such notice shall also be provided to all registered Republicans who are candidates seeking the office for which the endorsement is made.

ARTICLE X - APPLICABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS PLAN

1. Rules as to Towns and Cities

This Plan of Organization is not intended to extend to or establish organizations for the Republican Party of various Towns and Cities of the State of North Carolina as separate units from the Precinct and County Organization. Qualified and registered Republican voters of the Towns and Cities of the State may organize and promulgate their own rules not inconsistent with these rules and the organizations herein established.

2. Rules as to Cabarrus County

The Precinct, County Committees and County Convention are authorized to promulgate such additional rules and establish such additional rules and establish such additional Party Officers or Committees for the respective Organization, not inconsistent with these rules, as shall be deemed necessary.

3. Controversies

Controversies in the County with respect to the organizations set up therein under this plan shall be referred to the State Chairman, State Vice-Chairman, National

Committeeperson, or General Counsel for arbitration.

4. Parliamentary Authority

Parliamentary Authority will be Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised to govern all proceedings, except when inconsistent with this Plan of Organization.

5. Gender and Number

The masculine pronoun or title herein includes the feminine, and the singular herein includes the plural, wherever appropriate.

6. Effective Date of This Plan

This Plan of Organization shall become effective and repeal and supersede all other rules, except as specifically noted, immediately following adjournment of the Cabarrus County Executive Board Meeting in Concord, North Carolina, on June 29, 2010.

APPROVED: June 29, 2010