

The Bylaws of the Bell County Republican Party of Texas

Article I: Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Bell County Republican Party Executive Committee, hereinafter referred to as the County Executive Committee (CEC).

Article II: Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of the CEC shall be:

- (a) to establish general policy of the Republican Party in the county, subject to direction of the biennial County/Senatorial District Convention;
- (b) to represent the Republican Party of this county, state, and nation, promoting the Party's candidates;
- (c) to cooperate in carrying out programs initiated by the Republican Party of Texas, including but not limited to:
 - 1. conducting a Republican Primary in as many election precincts within the county as practicable, but, at a minimum, having a voting location in each County Commissioner's precinct; and
 - 2. organizing a coordinated effort, including Get-Out-The-Vote, preceding each general election, to publicize the Party's candidates.
- (d) to provide infrastructure for competitive primary and local elections
- (e) to foster debate of issues within the party

Section 2. The CEC is charged with the responsibility of observing all laws of the State of Texas and these United States in fulfilling the purposes stated in this Article.

Article III: Members

Section 1. The voting members of the CEC when conducting official business required by the Texas Election Code shall be the Precinct Chairs and, in the case of a tie, the County Chair. Officers and Committee Chairs who are not Precinct Chairs may serve as ex-officio (non-voting) members of the CEC.

Section 2. To qualify to hold the office of Precinct Chair, a person must be a qualified voter residing within the bounds of the entity represented. Holders of elected public office at the county, state, or federal level or candidates for such offices are disqualified from serving as Precinct Chairs.

Section 3. The term of office shall be for two (2) years, commencing on the twentieth (20th) day after the Run-Off Primary Election Day, as provided for in Section 171.022(c) of the Texas Election Code.

Section 4. A Precinct Chair or Officer may resign by providing their resignation in writing to the County Chair and Secretary.

Section 5. A Precinct Chair or officer may be removed by the CEC with a 4/5ths vote in accordance with Republican Party of Texas Rule 8n.

Section 6. Any vacancy in the office of County Chair or Precinct Chair shall be filled by the CEC.

- (a) **County Chair.** A majority of the total membership of the CEC must participate in filling a vacancy and the person selected must receive a majority of the votes cast of those members participating in the election, as provided by Section 171.024(a) of the Texas Election Code.
- (b) **Precinct Chair.** One-fourth (1/4) of the total membership of the CEC, excluding vacancies, shall constitute a quorum for filling a vacancy and the person selected must receive a majority of the votes cast of those members participating in the election, as provided by Section 171.024(c) of the Texas Election Code.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1. Officers of the CEC shall be the County Chair, County Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Elections Director, and Communications Director. All Officers except the Secretary shall be appointed by the County Chair and in no case shall an Officer position be vacant more than ninety (90) days. The Secretary shall be elected by the CEC following commencement of term of office.

Section 2. The term of office of the Officers shall be concurrent with that of the CEC, except in the event of a vacancy in the office of County Chair (at which time the appointed officers shall serve only until election of a new County Chair).

Section 3. A vacancy in the office of County Chair shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of Section 171.025 of the Texas Election Code. A vacancy in the office of Secretary shall be filled by the CEC following notice of the vacancy, or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

Section 4. Duties of officers shall be those prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the CEC and by these bylaws, as listed below:

- (a) **County Chair.** The County Chair shall be the CEC's presiding officer and official spokesman. He or she shall perform these duties required by the statute and by these bylaws and by the Rules of the Republican Party of Texas. He or she shall be an ex officio member of all county Standing and Special Committees. The County Chair may be a member of the Texas Republican County Chair's Association and any assessments or dues are to be paid by the CEC.
- (b) **County Vice Chair.** The County Vice Chair shall assist the Chair as requested in the performance of any non- statutory duties of the office. The Vice Chair may not perform any statutory duties as outlined by state law but may assist in any other functions of the County Chair, including appointment to committees.

- (c) **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping systematic records and for complying with any applicable state and federal statutes with regard to reporting contributions and expenditures. The Treasurer shall prepare a current report of financial conditions for presentation to the CEC at each regularly scheduled meeting.
- (d) **Secretary.** The Secretary shall carry out the usual duties of that office, keeping an up-to-date role of the CEC's members and ensuring that each member receives timely notices of meetings. A permanent file containing minutes of the CEC meetings shall be maintained. In the event of a vacancy in the office of County Chair, the Secretary shall call a meeting of the CEC for the purpose of electing a new County Chair, as provided for in Section 171.025 of the Texas Election Code. The Secretary is authorized to receive applications for a place on the Primary Ballot, as provided for in Section 172.022(a)(2) of the Texas Election Code.
- (e) **Parliamentarian.** The Parliamentarian shall advise the Chair or the Chair of any meeting regarding parliamentary procedure.
- (f) **Elections Director.** The elections director shall carry out the recruitment, training, and retention of election judges and clerks. The director shall continually train individuals in order to build a "bench" of qualified judges and clerks and to maintain the skills of current judges and clerks.
- (g) **Communications Director.** The communications director shall build and maintain the public image of the Republican Party of Bell County. The director's dual goals shall be a high approval rating amongst the general population of Bell County and recruitment of volunteers and donors for the party.

Article 5: Meetings

Section 1. The CEC shall regularly meet once a month with a minimum of one meeting a quarter.

Section 2. In each even-numbered year, as required by the Republican Party of Texas Rule 8e, one of the regular meetings shall be an organizational meeting to be held within forty-five (45) days after the term of office begins for the County Chair and Precinct Chairs. (The term of office begins twenty (20) days after the Primary Runoff Election) The County Chairman of the incoming term shall be responsible for calling the meeting; however, if the County Chairman does not call the meeting within the forty-five (45) days, then one-fourth (1/4) or fifty (50) of the Precinct Chairmen, whichever is fewer, may, by written demand, call an organizational meeting. Notice of the organizational meeting and a copy of any proposed Bylaws and/or Rules shall either be mailed via the USPS or may be emailed (but only if the precinct chair's email address is known), and shall be posted on the county party website, if available, and it may be sent prior to the end of the previous term. Delivery will be to the last known address of the members of the executive committee at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting. Such notice shall state the time, date, and location of the meeting and the name(s) of the person(s) issuing the call. The agenda of the organizational meeting shall include, but not be limited to, the swearing in of the newly elected executive committee members and the adoption of Bylaws and/or Rules for the biennium. Failure to adopt bylaws and/or rules for the current biennium by a majority of those present and voting shall enact the previous biennium's bylaws and/or rules.

Section 3. Regular meetings shall be called by the County Chair with a minimum of fourteen (14) days' notice to each CEC member. Emergency meetings may be called by the County Chair with a minimum of five (5) days' notice to each CEC member.

Section 4. A special meeting must be held on petition of a minimum of twenty-five percent of Precinct Chairs. Notice of such meeting must be provided to every member of the CEC and held no earlier than five days after presentation of the petition to the Secretary and/or County Chair.

Section 5. Emergency meetings can be held digitally if there is agreement between all the officers and a quorum of the CEC is present.

Section 6. All meeting notices must be in writing (digital or analog) and include the date, time, and location of the meeting. A notice must include a statement of any business requiring a vote of the CEC to be conducted at the meeting. Official action may be taken only on items listed on the notice unless unanimous consent is received from CEC members present at the meeting to waive such requirement.

Section 7. No county executive committee meeting shall be held two (2) days prior, during, or two (2) days after the week of the biennial State Convention or during any calendar week in which committee meetings or general sessions of the quadrennial National Convention are scheduled.

Section 8. In accordance with Republican Party of Texas Rule 8f, all meetings of the CEC including meetings of any, sub-committee, or ad hoc committee shall be open to any member of that CEC, and they shall have the right to appear before any such committee, sub-committee, or ad hoc committee and make recommendations for the committee's consideration or testify concerning any item under purview of the committee. This rule does not preclude the committee from going into executive session; however, such executive session(s) shall be open to any member of the CEC including ex-officio members.

Section 9. Quorum, in accordance with Republican Party of Texas Rule 9

- (a) Non-Statutory Business and Filling Vacancies - One-fourth (1/4) of the membership, excluding vacancies, shall constitute a quorum for conduct of non-statutory business.
- (b) Statutory Business – A quorum for conduct of statutory business (called for by the Texas Election Code) shall consist of those members present.

Article VI: Position Resolutions

Section 1. To pass a position resolution for the Republican Party, a Precinct Chair or Officer must present the resolution at a CEC meeting. This will constitute the first reading of the resolution.

Section 2. The Secretary will send a copy of the resolution to all Precinct Chairs and officers within forty-eight (48) hours of the first reading of the resolution. The Secretary will also send out the resolution with the meeting agenda for the following CEC meeting.

Section 3. At the next CEC meeting, the resolution will be debated with a minimum of one (1) Precinct Chair speaking for and one (1) Precinct Chair speaking against the resolution, unless

no Precinct Chairs wish to speak against the resolution. Each speaker will be limited to two (2) minutes. This will constitute the second reading of the resolution.

Section 4. After the second reading of the resolution, the CEC will vote on the resolution. A 3/4ths vote of the CEC is required to pass the resolution. If the resolution passes, the Secretary will send a press release to all major media organizations in the county with the text of the final resolution.

Section 5. The notice requirement of this Article cannot be suspended.

Article VII: Endorsements

Section 1. The CEC will not endorse an opposed candidate in a primary.

Section 2. In a nonpartisan election where only one candidate is a Republican, the CEC can endorse a candidate with a majority vote. The endorsement must be on the agenda.

Section 3. In a nonpartisan election where more than one candidate is a Republican, the CEC can endorse a candidate with a 4/5ths vote.

- (a) All Republican candidates must be invited to speak at a CEC meeting.
- (b) All Republican candidates must be given fourteen (14) days' notice of their invitation to speak at the CEC meeting.
- (c) All Republican candidates must be given at least five (5) minutes to speak.
- (d) Notice of the vote to endorse must be provided on the agenda. The notice requirement of this Section cannot be suspended.

Section 4. For purposes of this article, "Republican" is defined as an individual who has voted in the Republican primary at least once in the past four primary elections and who has not voted in any other primary or participated in any other party convention during that time.

Article VIII: Spending

Section 1. All spending over \$500 must be approved by the CEC.

Section 2. The chair may spend up to \$500 when deemed appropriate and time-sensitive without the approval of the CEC.

Article IX: Voting

Section 1. In general, votes will be taken by voice, in a traditional aye-or-nay format.

Section 2. Prior to any vote, any voting member can request that the vote be taken by secret ballot.

Section 2. In any vote among three or more candidates, an instant run-off system will be utilized. A traditional run off system can be requested by any voting member prior to the vote.

Section 3. When circumstances dictate, the County Chair may deem it necessary to conduct voting digitally. Prior to the vote, any voting member can request that the voting be conducted with paper ballots.

Article IX: Committees

Section 1. The County Chair shall appoint the Standing Committees, as are deemed necessary to carry out policies of the local Party from the pool of officers or Precinct Chairs.

Section 2. Each committee is authorized to develop procedures for conducting the business within that committee's jurisdiction, subject to review and amendment by the full CEC.

Section 3. A committee member or members may be removed from a committee upon request of the Committee Chair or the County Chair.

Article X: Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The rules contained in the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the CEC in all cases to which they are applicable and which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules promulgated by the Republican Party of Texas, or any state or federal statutes.

Article XI: Amendment of Bylaws

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3rds vote of the members of the CEC present and voting at a properly called meeting of the CEC by giving notice at the previous regular meeting.

Adopted: June 28, 2022



Mack Latimer, County Chair