

**THE RULES of the
SUMTER COUNTY
REPUBLICAN
PARTY**

28 July 2022

DRAFT

NOT APPROVED

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Sumter County Republican Party, dedicated to the sound principles fostered by that Party, conscious of our civic responsibilities and rights, and firm in our determination to support and help perpetuate the American way of life, do herewith establish this instrument, the Rules of the Republican Party of the Great County of Sumter, South Carolina.

PREAMBLE	2
RULE 1	5
NAME	5
MEMBERSHIP	5
RULE 2	6
INTERPRETATION & APPLICATION OF RULES; AMENDMENTS; DISTRIBUTIONS; DEFINITIONS; DUTIES	6
DUTIES OF OFFICERS	8
(a) Chairman	8
(b) First Vice-Chairman	8
(c) Second Vice-Chairman	8
(d) Third Vice-Chairman	8
(e) State Executive Committeeman	8
(f) Treasurer	9
(g) Secretary	9
(h) Parliamentarian	9
(i) Historian	9
(j) Sergeant at Arms	9
RULE 3	10
LEVELS OF ORGANIZATION	10
RULE 4	11
PRECINCT ORGANIZATION	11
(a) Initial Organization	11
(b) Reorganization	11
(c) Proceedings	11
(d) Resignations, vacancies	13
RULE 5	16
COUNTY ORGANIZATION	16
(a) Initial Organization	16
(b) County Convention	16
(c) Convention Proceedings	16
(d) County Executive Committee and Board	17
(e) Resignations, vacancies	18
(f) Honors and Awards	20
RULE 6	21
PROXIES	21

RULE 7	22
QUORUMS	22
RULE 8	23
APPEALS	23
RULE 9	24
FINANCES	24
RULE 10	25
PARTY OFFICIALS AS CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE	25

RULE 1

NAME

The name of this political organization shall be "The Sumter County Republican Party."
The name of each component precinct organization shall be "The _____ Precinct of the Sumter County Republican Party."

MEMBERSHIP

1. Any individual believing and abiding by the principles of the Republican Party and intending to support the Party's nominated candidates shall be eligible for membership to the Party.
2. Membership contributions support Party operations. Members are encouraged to pay annual dues, however, payment of said dues is not required. Membership contributions are based on a calendar year (1 January-31 December). Membership contributions paid in the fourth quarter of any calendar year will be considered as to include membership in the following calendar year. Lack of payment of annual membership contributions will not exclude, exempt, or prevent any member from being involved in the Sumter County Republican Party in any function of the party, up to and including holding elected office.

RULE 2

INTERPRETATION & APPLICATION OF RULES; AMENDMENTS; DISTRIBUTIONS; DEFINITIONS; DUTIES

These Rules shall be interpreted and applied to substantially accomplish their objectives. All records and lists required by the Rules shall be in writing. The spirit and not the letter of each Rule shall be controlling. Substantial compliance with a Rule shall be sufficient. Should any conflict exist or develop between any of these Rules, the SCGOP rules and the South Carolina election law, the latter shall govern except as to those laws which have been judicially held to be constitutionally unenforceable or which are patently unconstitutional. In matters or areas not covered by these County Rules, the Rules of the State and National Republican Party will be followed as a guide.

(a) The proceedings of all business, organizational, reorganizational, executive committee, and committee meetings and all county and state conventions, not covered by these Rules or by enforceable provisions of the South Carolina election law, shall conform to the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

(b) All elections to a party office at all levels of organization shall be decided by a majority vote unless otherwise directed by the rules; all delegates shall be elected by plurality vote.

(c) These Sumter County Rules may be amended only by the Sumter County Republican Party by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total number of delegates present, registered and approved for that convention or reconvened convention, OR by the Sumter County Executive Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total number of committeemen present, after recommendation and approval by the Party Rules Committee. Any proposed changes, other than grammatical and/or scrivener's errors, must be distributed to the Executive Committee at a scheduled meeting prior to a vote by the Committee.

(d) The Sumter County Executive Committee or the Sumter County Chairman may cause explanatory footnotes to accompany these Rules when published or printed. Footnotes may be added to, removed, supplemented, corrected, or altered as the occasion requires or as the orderly utilization and implementation of the Rules may suggest. Such footnotes or explanatory comment shall not be regarded as part of these Rules or have the force of Party Rules but shall be considered as advisory only. The Sumter County Chairman may require specific forms to be used for administrative purposes at all levels of the party. The Sumter County Chairman may make other regulations regarding administrative practices at all levels of the party.

(e) The Sumter County Executive Committee and the Sumter County Convention may

adopt for their own purposes such rules as they deem necessary and which are not in conflict with the Sumter County Rules, the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, or with enforceable state law.

(f) The Rules may be reproduced and distributed as the Sumter County Executive Committee may direct. Each Sumter County party officer, each county convention officer, each committeeman and each precinct delegate shall be furnished, upon request, a copy of these Rules by the county party secretary or other Board member.

(g) Where used in these Rules, the male gender shall include female unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(h) "County Chairman" shall mean the duly elected Republican chairman of the Sumter County Republican Party.

(i) "State Executive Committeeman" shall mean the duly elected Republican committeeman from the Sumter County Republican Party to the South Carolina Republican Party Executive Committee.

(j) "County Executive Committeeman" shall mean the duly elected Republican committeeman from his precinct to the Sumter County Republican Party Executive Committee.

(k) "Party" shall mean the South Carolina Republican Party at the state, congressional district, county, or precinct level.

(l) "State Officer" shall mean any officer of the party at the state level, duly elected or appointed, other than state executive committeemen, who is a county officer.

(m) "Parliamentarian" shall mean the duly appointed Parliamentarian of the Party.

(n) "Historian" shall mean the duly appointed Historian of the Party.

(o) "Sergeant at Arms" shall mean the duly appointed Sergeant at Arms of the Party.

(p) "Duly Elected" shall mean elected by the precinct delegates during the County Convention.

(q) "Duly Appointed" shall mean appointed by the chair and with the consent of the Executive Committee during an Executive Committee meeting.

(r) "Term of Office" for all officers, appointees, and standing committee members shall be from the time elected or appointed until the convening of the next county convention.

The Chairman, at his discretion, shall appoint the treasurer and secretary and may further appoint a parliamentarian, historian and Sergeant at Arms at his discretion and all shall serve at the pleasure of the Chairman

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

(a) Chairman

The Chairman shall preside at the meetings of the Party, the Executive Board, and the County Executive Committee. He appoints all committees except the Nominating Committee. The Chairman appoints all standing committees with the consent of the County Executive Committee. He is an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. He nominates the Treasurer, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Historian, and Sergeant of Arms to the Executive Committee for consent and appointment. He may call for special meetings of the Party or the County Executive Committee. He is authorized to countersign Party checks or obtain a countersignature. He represents the Party at all times or, if unable to do so, designates someone as a representative. He is a standing delegate to the State Convention, serves as the official spokesman of the Party, or designates someone to act as spokesman.

(b) First Vice-Chairman

In the absence of the Chairman, the First Vice-Chairman performs his duties. He assists the Chairman at his request. With the assistance of the Secretary, he manages precinct organization and reorganization. He ensures the various lists and records necessary to the effective functioning of the Party are kept in an accurate and up to date manner.

(c) Second Vice-Chairman

Duties for the Second Vice-Chairman are primarily to assist with membership outreach. Additional duties are assigned by the Chairman based on the needs of the Party, and the interests and abilities of the officer

(d) Third Vice-Chairman

Duties for the Third Vice-Chairman are primarily to assist with growing the party with young Republicans. Additional duties are assigned by the Chairman based on the needs of the Party, and the interests and abilities of the officer.

(e) State Executive Committeeman

The State Executive Committeeman represents the County Party at the State level. He may not hold any other elected position within the Party. He reports his activities at the state level to the County Executive Committee and takes decisions and views of the County Executive Committee to the State Executive Committee as directed.

(f) Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive and is custodian of all funds, including but not limited to keeping an account of all monies received and disbursed. He reports in full at Executive Committee meetings and at other times as required by the Chairman. He is the Party Compliance Officer responsible for determining the Party's financial compliance requirements and making proper reports to state agencies as required. The Treasurer will maintain an up-to-date list of all members who have paid contributions to the Party and will notify the Chairman of all contributions within seven (7) days. The Treasurer will also maintain a list of all members attending all meetings, up to and including monthly meetings, Executive Committee meetings, and board meetings. The treasurer will also maintain a list of attendees contact information, including name, address, phone number, and valid email address, and provide it to the Chairman, so the Chairman can continually maintain a contact list.

(g) Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for producing an accurate written record of the decisions made by the party. To that end, he prepares pertinent minutes of all official meetings to include meetings of the Executive Committee and the Executive Board, when requested. When approved by the respective body, these minutes become the official record of Party activities. He also assists the Treasure in maintaining list of member information. He assist the Chairman and First Vice-Chair with the maintenance of records and lists used by the Party, and with Party correspondence. The Secretary will be responsible for maintenance of the Party website and assist in monitoring social media platforms for new member request and post.

(h) Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian will use *Robert's Rules of Order* to aid the Chairman in maintaining order and ensuring adherence to the rules and guidelines used by the County Executive Committee and by the County Convention.

(i) Historian

The Historian records the history and accomplishments of the Party. He does this by taking pictures of events, keeping pertinent records, and completing scrapbooks, when necessary. To save space historical materials may be converted to electronic media.

(j) Sergeant at Arms

The Sergeant at Arms is responsible for setting up the meeting area for each regular member meeting. He will enforce proper decorum and assist the Parliamentarian to ensure adherence to parliamentarian process and rules set forth in the Party Rules.

RULE 3

LEVELS OF ORGANIZATION

(a) Organization of the County Party shall be at two levels:

- (1) the precinct organization.
- (2) the county organization.

(b) Any other Republican organization based upon a geographical area may be established, or altered, only by the State or County Executive Committee.

RULE 4

PRECINCT ORGANIZATION

(a) Initial Organization

Initial organization of a precinct in a county that has a county party organization, which is recognized by the State Executive Committee, shall be under the direction of the County Chairman, their designee, State Chairman or other Party official designated by the State Chairman upon noncompliance or refusal by County Chairman. Precincts undergoing initial organization that did not go through reorganization may be organized at any time and shall be immediately recognized by the County Executive Committee without a makeup meeting. Initial organization may also take place at the County Reorganization.

(b) Reorganization

(1) Organized precincts shall meet during the month of March of each non-general election year at an appropriate place within the county, at a time and day set by the County Executive Committee, or at such other time and date as may be required by law for reorganization.

(2) Only those precincts previously certified or recognized as duly organized shall conduct reorganizational meetings.

(c) Proceedings

In all organization and reorganization meetings of precincts, business may be conducted as follows:

(1) The meeting shall be called to order by the precinct president or vice-president, if the president is not present, in an organized precinct. In an unorganized precinct, the meeting shall be called to order by such person as may have been designated by the county chairman (or State Chairman, if applicable) to arrange the meeting, and if none, then by some person in attendance who is eligible for membership in the precinct. See Rule 4(c)(3) for eligibility requirements.

(2) A temporary president, a temporary secretary, and a committee on credentials for the purpose of organizing or reorganizing shall be elected.

(3) The credentials committee shall report the names of those in attendance who are eligible for membership and who have signed the membership roll, verifying each member is in fact eligible for membership. Membership eligibility is determined by the member having a current, valid voter registration certificate in that precinct, and either (1) the person having voted in the election designated for

the purposes of delegate allocation set forth in Rule 4(c)(5) or (2) the person being elected to membership at a precinct meeting.

(4) When organized, a permanent president, one or more vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and a county committeeman to the county executive committee (a minimum of three (3) officers) may be elected. One person may not hold more than one office unless there are fewer than three (3) people present at the meeting. Such committees as may be desired may be created. Precinct officers do not assume the duties of their office until after the county convention set forth in Rule 5(b) has been held, unless they are elected from a precinct not organized during the month of March under regular precinct reorganization.

(5) Delegates and alternates to the county convention shall be elected from among the members of the precinct in attendance and/or those whose membership is set forth in the poll list of the preceding primary election and/or those who are absent from the reorganization meeting but who have submitted the properly signed forms. In situations where there are more members present wishing to run for county delegate than delegate positions available (or those who have submitted proper paperwork), a vote shall be taken with each present eligible member having as many votes to cast as delegate positions available. No member absent from the meeting may cast a vote, but they may be voted for and considered a candidate. In the case of fewer members present than delegate slots allotted, all members shall become delegates, unless said member declines to serve as delegate. A list of the candidates shall be arranged in the order of the number of votes received by them, with the candidate receiving the greatest number ranked first, and candidates with fewer votes ranked in descending order of the number of votes received by each in succession. The number of votes received by each candidate also shall be shown on said list. In the case of a tie, the position of the tying candidates on the list shall be determined by drawing lots. Those candidates with the most votes will be delegates, and the rest will be alternates in descending order of the total number of votes received. Delegates and alternates are not required to be in attendance at the precinct meeting. Each precinct shall have one delegate for every twenty-five (25) members and major fraction thereof, based upon the number of votes polled in the first primary of the preceding general election year or based upon the number of votes for presidential electors at the last preceding general election thereof from the precinct, as determined by the State Executive Committee; or if the last preceding nominations were by convention, the representation shall be based upon the number of votes for presidential electors at the last preceding general election therefore from the precinct (7-9-70). All precinct representation shall be based on the same election. An equal number of alternates may also be elected. The precinct secretary and precinct president shall certify the names of precinct members, precinct officers and delegates and alternates, along with their own certifications, to the county chairman no later than five (5) days following the initial precinct meeting. Vacancies in any precinct delegation at any County Convention or reconvened convention shall be filled from among the alternate delegates present. No delegate or alternate shall be elected by the precinct less than five (5) days before the County Convention.

A certified list of precinct members, precinct officers and delegates and alternates shall be forwarded to the State Chairman by the County chairman no later than seven (7) days following the initial meeting, and no later than three (3) days after a make-up meeting. The county chairman shall make the certified list of delegates and alternates to the county convention available to any delegate, alternate or precinct officer no later than three (3) days after a make-up meeting. Such certified lists shall contain all contact information known to the county party. Failure by the precinct president to provide accurately completed paperwork from reorganization to the chairman may result in disqualification of a precinct, which in turn may result in the failure to organize said precinct. Upon receipt of the lists from the precinct president, the county chairman shall promptly notify the precinct president of any irregularities found therein, and conversely, the precinct president shall be informed if the lists are in order. Any irregularities must be addressed, corrected, and resolved by the precinct president and/or chairman within 24 hours of the make-up meeting.

(5) Except for organization and reorganization meetings, the president or three (3) members may call special meetings of the precinct at any time by giving at least forty-eight (48) hours written and/or public notice.

(6) If federal or state actions result in the creation of new precincts, consolidation of precincts or redrawing of precinct lines that cause duly elected precinct officers and delegates to no longer reside within their original precinct, the offices of the affected officers and delegates shall be declared vacant. The county executive committee shall set a date within forty-five (45) days of such action for a special precinct reorganization meeting for those precincts affected. The meeting shall be held in one location within the county and under the direction of the county chairman, their designee, the State Chairman or other Party official designated by the State Chairman upon noncompliance or refusal by County Chairman.

(7) The county chairman shall also set a date no later than seven days prior to the county convention for precincts to meet, referred to as a makeup meeting, that have failed to organize or reorganize or that need to conduct further business, including the ability of precincts to fulfill their delegate allotment to the county convention. The make-up meeting for all precincts shall be held in one central location in the county and shall be properly advertised.

(d) Resignations, vacancies

(1) Resignations by any officer shall be submitted to the president and secretary. The county committeeman shall also submit his resignation to the county chairman. The precinct shall fill all vacancies in its elective offices, including county committeeman. If an elected officer or committeeman becomes disabled and cannot act or serve, or if he abandons his office by refusing to serve, he shall be notified in writing by the county executive committee, upon concurrence of a majority of the executive committee present, that his office will be declared vacant, effective fifteen (15) days from the date of notice, unless the person gives earlier notice of his resignation or unless, within that time, he resumes the full duties of his office

or furnishes a reason acceptable to the county executive committee as to why his office should not be declared vacant.

(2) A vacancy shall occur immediately if any elected officer or executive committeeman moves his legal residence outside the geographical area his office encompasses, and such vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of the Rules. Should any officer publicly endorse or financially support a candidate for partisan office other than a duly declared Republican candidate, unless there is no Republican nominee in the relevant race, they shall immediately vacate their Republican Party office. The State Executive Committee may waive this provision in statewide and multi-county elections, and the county executive committees may waive this provision for their county and less-than-county elections.

(3) Additionally, any County Executive Committee may declare vacant the office of any member of the County Executive Committee who is absent from three (3) consecutive County Executive Committee meetings without good cause when such committeeman has not been represented by a designated proxy or by the precinct president in attendance in his place. Provided, however, before such committeeman's office shall have been declared vacant, he shall be notified by certified mail by the county chairman and given opportunity to show cause before the County Executive Committee why he should not be removed from office.

(4) Should a vacancy occur in the office of a County Executive Committeeman or Precinct Chairman, and if there be no other members or officers of the precinct, the precinct shall become unorganized. Upon notice by the Executive Committee and at the discretion of the County Chairman that there is someone interested in re-organizing the precinct, it shall become organized pursuant to Rule 4(a).

(5) A vacancy shall occur as covered in Rule 10.

(6) A precinct meeting may be called by the precinct president or three other precinct members, two executive board members, the County Chairman, or 3 executive committeemen for the purpose of filling a vacancy among its officers, but such meetings require 48 hours written notice to all precinct members. For the purposes of these rules, unless otherwise specified, "written notice" shall be defined as mail by the United States Postal Service, electronic mail, or private mail delivery service.

(7) The precinct secretary shall keep a current roll of members, removing names because of death, transfer, resignation, request, etc. New precinct members may be added as indicated by state party rules.

RULE 5

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

(a) Initial Organization

(1) Initial organization of a county organization in a county not having a county party organization which is recognized by the State Executive Committee shall be in accordance with instructions and procedures as the State Chairman may direct. Such counties may be organized at any time.

(b) County Convention

(1) In every non-general election year, the County Convention shall be called by the County Executive Committee in each county having an organization recognized by the State Executive Committee. The convention shall be held during the month of April, no less than 14 days following precinct reorganization meetings, and the specific date, time and location of the convention shall be set by the County Executive Committee. A notice shall be caused to be published by the County Executive Committee once a week for two consecutive weeks, not more than three nor less than two weeks before the actual day of the convention in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The list of delegates certified by the president and secretary of each precinct shall constitute the temporary roll of the County Convention (7-9-70).

(c) Convention Proceedings

In all county conventions, business shall be conducted as follows:

(1) The meeting shall be called to order by the county chairman or vice-chairman if the chairman is not present. (7-9-80)

(2) A temporary convention president, a temporary secretary and a committee on credentials for the purpose of organizing shall be elected. (7-9-80)

(3) The credentials committee shall make its report to the county convention body; and any appeals regarding the credentials committee's report shall be made by way of amendment to the county convention (7-9-80). Further appeals may be made to the State Executive Committee at its next meeting thereafter, and if necessary, to the next regular state convention meeting.

(4) When organized, a permanent convention president, secretary, and treasurer shall be elected. It shall also elect the county chairman, county vice-chairman (preferably of the opposite sex), a state executive committeeman, (7-9-80), and other such officers as the convention deems necessary, who shall serve for a term

of two (2) years or until their successors are elected.

(5) It shall also elect delegates to the district(s) and State Convention. One delegate shall be elected for each six thousand residents in the county or majority fraction thereof, according to the latest official United States Census, plus two additional delegates. Double the number of delegates may be elected in which case each delegate shall have one-half vote. An equal number of alternates may also be elected (7-9-80). Should the county convention desire to designate the order of alternates who might fill vacancies, it may do so. Where no order of alternates is designated, the order in which the names are submitted to the state party shall be deemed the order of succession. The County Chairman shall designate one of its delegates as a member of the state credentials committee.

(6) If a county is divided between two or more congressional districts, the number of state convention delegates to which such county shall be entitled shall be apportioned among the district as nearly as possible based on the population residing in each congressional district as a percentage of the entire population of the county at the last decennial census. Each State Convention delegate elected to attend a Congressional District Convention shall be a resident of the congressional district the person is elected to represent and shall be elected only by those County Convention delegates who are residents of the same congressional district. An exemption may be made at the County Chairman's discretion when there are not a sufficient number of organized precincts in a congressional district to provide the allotment of delegates for said district.

(7) A list certified by the convention secretary and signed by the convention president and/or county chairman, of all officers, delegates, and alternates elected by the county convention shall be forwarded by the county chairman or convention secretary to the State Chairman and a copy to the district chairman not later than five (5) days following the county convention. Such list also shall include the name of the delegate chosen to serve on the credentials committee.

(8) The county convention shall be recessed in non-general election years and may be reconvened in the following general election year, during the month set by the state committee, to conduct such business, as it deems advisable, including nomination of candidates.

(d) County Executive Committee and Board

(1) The Sumter County Executive Board shall consist of County Chairman, sitting first, second, and third vice-chairmen, and state Executive Committeeman. The purpose of the board is to provide guidance and oversight to the executive committee, any sub-committees, and the organization in general.

Potential candidates for board positions must meet *at least one* of the following conditions:

1. Be a past or present precinct committeeman or board member in the Sumter County Republican Party OR other officially recognized Republican Party entity.
2. Held elected public office as a Republican.
3. Have attended no less than one third of county party meetings in the previous calendar year.

(2) The precincts in each county shall be held together and operated under the control of a County Executive Committee, which shall consist of one (1) committeeman from each precinct elected by the precinct. An officer of the County Executive Committee who is not an executive committeeman shall not be entitled to vote on any question. The county chairman may vote only in case of a tie vote.

(3) The state executive committeeman from the county shall also be an officer of the County Executive Committee and shall be entitled to vote on any question.

(4) The tenure of office of the county committeeman shall be until the convening of the county convention in each non-general election year.

(5) The secretary of the County Executive Committee shall keep such record of the committee's meetings as the committee may direct. Any written record that is kept shall be in duplicate, one copy for the chairman and one copy to be retained by the secretary.

(6) The County Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the county chairman, two board members, three (3) executive committeemen OR by ten percent of the Committee's membership, whichever is greater, at such time and place as he or they shall appoint, but no meeting shall be held without each member of the committee having been given at least forty-eight (48) hours written notice thereof. The County Executive Committee may also meet and act by telephone conference upon forty-eight (48) hours written notice. For the purposes of these rules, unless otherwise specified, "written notice" shall be defined as mail by the United States Postal Service, electronic mail, or private mail delivery service.

(e) Resignations, vacancies

(1) Resignation by any officer shall be submitted in writing to the county chairman and county secretary. Resignation by a county executive committeeman shall also be to the president and secretary of this precinct. Resignation by the state executive committeeman shall be to the county chairman, county secretary and State Chairman and State Secretary.

(2) The County Executive Committee may remove any appointed officer at

any time with a present majority vote if said officer is in deliberate violation of county rules, Robert's Rules of Order, state party, and local, state, and federal laws. It may fill any vacancies among its appointed officers.

(3) Should the office of the county chairman, county vice-chairman or State Executive Committeeman become vacant, the County Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy by electing a chairman, vice-chairman, or Executive Committeeman, respectively, for the unexpired term. Vacancy in the office of county chairman shall not cause the vice-chairman to succeed to the office of chairman unless elected thereto by the County Executive Committee. Vacancies in these offices that are filled by the County Executive Committee will not cause such officers to be "appointed" officers by the committee, but the same as if elected by the County Convention.

(4) If an elected officer or committeeman becomes disabled and cannot act or serve, or if he abandons his office by refusing to serve, he shall be notified in writing by the county executive committee, upon concurrence of a majority of the entire executive committee, that his office will be declared vacant, effective fifteen (15) days from the date of the notice, unless the person gives earlier notice of his resignation or unless, within that time, he resumes the full duties of his office or furnishes a reason acceptable to the county executive committee as to why his office should not be declared vacant.

(5) Additionally, any County Executive Committee may declare vacant the office of any member of the County Executive Committee who is absent from three (3) consecutive County Executive Committee meetings without good cause when such committeeman has not been represented by a designated proxy (8c) or by the precinct president in attendance in his place.

However, before such committeeman's office shall have been declared vacant, he shall be notified by certified mail by the county chairman and given opportunity to show cause before the County Executive Committee why he should not be removed from office.

Should any officer publicly endorse or financially support a candidate for partisan office other than a duly declared Republican candidate, unless there is no Republican nominee in the relevant race, they shall immediately vacate their Republican Party office. The State Executive Committee may waive this provision in statewide and multi- county elections, and the county executive committees may waive this provision for their county and less-than-county elections.

(6) A vacancy shall occur immediately if any elected officer or county executive committee moves his residence outside the geographical area his offices encompass, and such vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of these Rules.

(7) A vacancy shall occur as covered under Rule 10.

(f) Honors and Awards

Authority to bestow special county party honors and awards is reserved to the County Chairman and/or County Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Honors and Awards Committee. Such honors and awards will be paid for with Sumter County Republican Party funds, as provided for in the budget, so long as funds are available.

(g) Standing Committees

The following committees are available for use by the Executive Committee. The establishment of these committees is dependent upon having qualified volunteers to serve on and chair the committees and each committee shall consist of at least one member of the Executive Board. It is acceptable for members to chair or serve on multiple committees at the same time. The Chairman or Executive Committee may establish other committees as circumstances may require.

1. **Candidate Recruitment:** The committee shall seek, recruit, and encourage all qualified individuals to seek public office. This committee shall also serve a liaison between the Party and elected officials. This liaison duty shall also include the promotion of interested and qualified Republicans for appointive positions. The committee shall furnish aid to the candidates and shall keep the County Executive Committee and Chairman informed as to the status of all elective and appointive county offices.
2. **Fund Raising:** This committee shall organize and coordinate all fund-raising activities of the Party and formulate a plan for the raising of all funds for the Party. This committee shall turn over to the Treasurer all money received.
3. **Events:** This committee shall assist the Chairman in the organization, operation and maintenance of the Party headquarters, participation in the County Fair, parades, and other events requiring physical setup and operations.
4. **Honors & Awards:** This committee shall establish, maintain, and oversee the member awards program. The committee shall issue calls for nomination for member awards and coordinate on selection of recipients.
5. **Rules Committee:** The Rules Committee will be appointed by the Chairman not less than four months prior to the Convention. Recommended updates will be presented to the Convention Delegates for consideration, discussion and ratification and as provided for in Rule 2(c).

RULE 6

PROXIES

(a) Proxies may be used by any county committeeman and may also use proxies as ex-officio members of the county executive committee.

(b) To be valid, a proxy must be in writing (written letter or electronic communication) dated, signed by the author (or apparent with electronic media who the sender is), give the full name and address of the person designated as proxy and specify the specific meeting for which the proxy is given. A duly executed copy of the proxy shall be given to the chairman or secretary of the group, committee or meeting at which the proxy attends.

(c) Only members of the party from the same group represented by the author shall be appointed proxy. Such as, a county committeeman may appoint a proxy only from his own precinct; a state committeeman may appoint a proxy only from his own county.

(d) Proxies shall not be used or recognized in the Party at any level except as provided for in these rules.

(e) No individuals may have more than one (1) vote, either in his own right or by reason of any proxy he may hold. A proxy can only be used by an individual actually in attendance at the meeting for which the proxy is given. Attendance at the meeting for which the proxy is given by the author of the proxy shall terminate the proxy, unless the author should leave prior to the termination of the meeting and announce prior to his leaving whom he has designated as his proxy.

(f) If a county committeeman does not attend scheduled meetings of the county committee and does not appoint a proxy in writing, the county chairman of his county or his county first vice-chairman, when the chairman is absent, shall be considered an automatic proxy at such meeting. This same provision applies in similar fashion at the precinct level.

(g) The executive committee may provide for the use of proxies within a party organization created by it under the provisions of the Party Rule 3, but such use is to be limited to the pattern authorized elsewhere in this Rule 7, and, in any event, the use of proxies so authorized shall be limited to meetings of or at the organization created by the county executive committee and shall not extend to the use of such proxies at county executive committee meetings.

(h) No proxy shall be authorized to designate a substitute or successor proxy. However, an author of a proxy may designate successive proxies in the event the proxy first designated does not attend.

RULE 7

QUORUMS

A quorum at all conventions shall be a majority of the delegates thereto.

Further, for any entity that has two (2) consecutive inquorate meetings for which notice has been properly provided, the quorum at all meetings of such entity shall be the members present until the succeeding reorganization. The quorum for taking any action required by law or national party rules, including but not limited to election protest hearings and election of presidential electors, shall be the members present.

RULE 8

APPEALS

(a) All controversies that may arise in precinct organization shall be decided on appeal to the county executive committee. The County Chairman shall call a meeting of the county executive committee no later than two weeks after an appeal has been filed with the County Chairman.

(b) All controversies which may arise in county party organization shall be decided on appeal to the State executive committee, provided that all questions pertaining to the seating of delegates at all levels shall be determined by the convention, meeting, or body.

(c) All controversies must be settled pursuant to local, state, and federal laws, State Party laws, and Robert's Rules of Order.

RULE 9

FINANCES

No one is empowered to incur indebtedness or financial obligation on the part of the Sumter County Republican Party unless expressly authorized to do so by the county convention or the county executive committee. Prior to any such authorization, funds must be on hand and available for the purpose authorized.

The County Chairman may authorize the expenditure of available funds for necessary activities, the payment of bills or the reimbursement of expenses incurred by an individual on party business, but there shall be no obligation to do so. Any person incurring expenses does so by his own responsibility and he shall promptly make payment therefore personally, regardless of whether reimbursement is expected. The County Chairman is authorized to spend up to \$250.00 without approval of the Executive Board.

All checks issued by the county party treasurer shall be signed by the Treasurer or the County Chairman. The names of the County Chairman and the county party Treasurer shall be certified to the bank of deposit.

Each year, the Treasurer, in consultation with the Executive Board, shall provide a projected budget which establishes the baseline needs for the party in the coming year, i.e., fair booth rental and parade entry fees, expenses related to establishing temporary headquarters during an election year, etcetera. This projection is to be used in establishing fundraising needs and shall not be construed as to limit the party in participation in activities deemed necessary for the betterment of the party or the party's candidates if funds are available.

RULE 10

PARTY OFFICIALS AS CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

(a) Officers and Delegates as candidates from a different political party

(1) A vacancy shall occur immediately if a person who holds an elected or appointed party office or who is a Delegate or Alternate to a Party Convention, at any level becomes

- (a) an announced and/or official candidate for the nomination to elected public office who at the close of filing, has not filed as a candidate in the Republican Primary or,
- (b) an elected officer of another political party.

(b) Officers as candidates for public office as a Republican

(1) At levels above the precinct level, an officer—but not a delegate—shall resign such office if

- (a) such officer files as a candidate in a Republican Party primary AND,
- (b) at the close of filing and certification of candidates, more than one candidate is certified as seeking the Republican nomination.

(2) A person who holds an elected or appointed party office must immediately resign from such office upon announcing for federal or statewide office.

DRAFT

