

1 **BYLAWS**
2 **OF THE TENNESSEE REPUBLICAN PARTY**

3
4 **ARTICLE I**
5 **NAME AND PURPOSE**
6

7 Section 1. The name of this organization is the Tennessee Republican Party
8 (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "TRP" or the "Party").
9

10 Section 2. The purposes of the Party include, but are not limited to, electing
11 Republican candidates to office on the national, state and local levels; recruiting Republican
12 candidates to run for office; assisting the national Republican Party, the Republican National
13 Committee and other Republican organizations on the national level in carrying out their
14 purposes; raising funds for election campaigns and other Republican purposes; recruiting
15 membership in the Republican Party; increasing public awareness of the Republican position on
16 public issues; and fostering good citizenship in general.
17

18 **ARTICLE II**
19 **STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
20

21 Section 1. The affairs of the TRP shall be governed by the Republican State
22 Executive Committee of Tennessee (hereinafter, the "SEC").
23

24 Section 2. The duties and powers of the SEC, in general, include but are not limited
25 to the following: To serve as the TRP's state primary board; to have immediate charge and full
26 control of the political affairs of the TRP and establish policy to guide and direct County
27 Republican Parties; to adopt such rules and measures as may best promote the success of the
28 Republican Party and the broadening of its base; and to cause the Counties, precincts, and other
29 political subdivisions in Tennessee to be organized for political purposes.
30

31 Section 3. The duties of individual members of the SEC include, but are not limited
32 to, the following:
33

34 A. They shall be the representatives of the TRP to the District from which
35 they are elected.
36

37 B. They shall facilitate the flow of information to and from the District from
38 which they are elected.
39

40 C. They shall be expected to attend all meetings of the SEC; or, if a member
41 is unable to attend, he shall execute and deliver a valid written or electronic proxy, as more
42 particularly described in Article V, Section 4 below.
43

44 D. They shall be appointed to a Subcommittee of the SEC, and shall actively
45 participate in the execution of that Subcommittee's responsibilities.
46

1 E. They shall be expected to support the TRP as a member of the Capitol
2 Club or higher level of support, and shall assist in recruiting local Capitol Club members.
3

4 F. They shall be active in local Republican affairs and shall attend as many
5 Republican events and County Executive Committee (hereinafter, the CEC) meetings within the
6 District from which they are elected as possible.
7

8 G. They shall assist in coordinating the biennial reorganization of the Party in the
9 County or Counties within their District, and submission of Bylaws in the year following a
10 presidential election.
11

12
13 H. They shall assist in recruiting, advising and supporting Republican
14 candidates for office.
15

16 Section 4. The following shall apply to endorsement of candidates in contested
17 elections:
18

19 A. Neither the SEC as a body, nor the Officers, nor the TRP's paid staff
20 members, nor a County Republican Party or CEC as a body, nor County Republican Party
21 Chairmen shall endorse a Republican candidate in a contested primary election.
22

23 The exceptions to the above prohibition against endorsements are as follows:
24

25 1) The foregoing prohibition against endorsements shall not prohibit
26 endorsement of a Republican opponent of a Republican candidate who, as a member of the
27 General Assembly, voted for any redistricting plan opposed by the Tennessee Republican Party
28 either through the SEC, the State Chairman, or the Tennessee Republican Party's legal counsel.
29

30 2) The foregoing prohibition against endorsements shall not prohibit
31 endorsement of a Republican opponent of a Republican candidate who, as a member of the
32 General Assembly, voted for a person who was not the nominee of the Republican Caucus of the
33 House or Senate, for any officer of the House or Senate.
34
35

36 B. Neither the SEC nor a County Republican Party or CEC as a body or
37 individual member, shall endorse, or assist in any manner, a Democrat or other non-Republican
38 in an election or primary election in which a Republican is a candidate or has filed as a
39 candidate. The foregoing provision shall not apply to nonpartisan elections
40

41 C. Sections 3A, B, F and H above shall specifically govern the conduct of
42 individual SEC or CEC members with respect to the endorsement of any Republican candidate in
43 a contested primary election for State Senator or State Representative or other local or judicial
44 offices in the District or County which he represents.
45

46 D. The foregoing subsections shall not apply to a primary election in which

1 the individual SEC member or Officer, or his spouse, or a member of his immediate family, is a
2 candidate.
3

4 **ARTICLE III**
5 **MEMBERS OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
6

7 Section 1. A. The SEC shall consist of sixty-six (66) members. They shall be
8 elected at each regular August Republican primary election immediately before the election of
9 the Governor in the same year. One bona fide Republican man and one bona fide Republican
10 woman shall be elected to the SEC from each of the thirty-three (33) State Senatorial Districts,
11 by the voters of each respective District qualified to vote in such Republican primary. Each SEC
12 member shall be a legally registered voter in the Senatorial District from which he is elected. He
13 shall have voted in the last three Republican primaries in his county of residence during those
14 primary elections. Younger Republicans who may not have been of legal age for three primary
15 elections must obtain approval from the state Chairman¹. State Legislators and paid employees of
16 the Tennessee Republican Party shall not be eligible to serve on the SEC². The SEC shall serve a
17 four-year term, commencing September 15 following its election. Upon commencing his term,
18 each member shall qualify by taking the oath of office, which shall be filed with the State
19 Coordinator of Elections.
20

21 B. Bona fide Tennessee Republicans (See Article IX, Section 1) holding the
22 following offices and positions shall be entitled to receive notice of, and attend, all meetings of
23 the SEC: The Governor; any U. S. Senator or Congressman; the Republican Leaders of the
24 Tennessee House of Representatives and Senate; the State Election Commissioner, Secretary of
25 State, Comptroller and Treasurer; the Republican National Committeeman and
26 Committeewoman; the County Party Chairmen; the Chairmen of the Congressional District
27 Republican Executive Committees, if any; and the State Chairman or President of the Federation
28 of Republican Women, the Young Republicans, the College Republicans, any statewide
29 organization of African-American Republicans, and the Teenage Republicans.
30

31 Section 2. A. If a member of the SEC dies, resigns, or is removed from office
32 during his term, the State Chairman shall appoint a committee of at least three (3) SEC members,
33 including the other member from the District from which the vacancy exists. The committee
34 shall recommend a replacement at the next meeting of the SEC. At that meeting, other
35 nominations shall be permitted to be made from the floor. The SEC shall elect a successor by
36 majority vote of the members present and voting. Proxies shall be permitted for this purpose. If
37 no candidate receives a majority vote, a run-off shall be held between the two candidates
38 receiving the highest number of votes. If there is a tie, successive votes shall continue to be
39 taken until there is a winner of a majority vote.

¹ Pursuant to the minutes from the December 3, 2011 SEC Meeting, the phrase referencing “the last three Republican primaries in his county of residence”, was approved with the understanding that this would not require one to have voted in three primaries in the same residence. This allows for an individual to have moved from county to county and state to state.

² The ineligibility of legislators and TRP employees will go into effect on September 15th, 2014.

1
2 B. A member of the SEC who is elected to fill a vacancy shall serve until the
3 next regular August primary election, at which time a successor shall be chosen by the voters of
4 the Senatorial District in question.
5

6 C. A person elected to fill an unexpired term under Section 2A or 2B above
7 shall be a bona fide Republican of the same gender as the former member, and a legally
8 registered voter in the Senatorial District from which the vacancy arose, under the
9 reapportionment law then in effect.
10

11 D. If no one qualifies or is elected to a position on the SEC at an August
12 primary election under Section 1 or Section 2B, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with
13 Section 2A.
14

15 E. If, solely because of reapportionment, a member ceases to be a legally
16 registered voter or resident of the Senatorial District from which he was elected, this shall not
17 constitute grounds for removal or declaring the position vacant.
18

19 Section 3. An SEC member shall automatically cease to hold office, and a vacancy
20 shall exist, in the event of change of his place of voter registration outside the District which he
21 represents (except in the case of reapportionment during the member's term, as stated above), or
22 for having been physically absent from three (3) consecutive regularly called SEC meetings. This
23 provision shall not apply to an absence from meetings that have been rescheduled from the
24 previously announced date. An SEC member shall have an affirmative duty to give notice in
25 writing to the State Chairman of a move outside the District which he represents. The Secretary
26 shall announce at the beginning of each SEC meeting the name of any member who has become
27 disqualified because he has moved outside his District, and shall announce at the end of each
28 meeting the name of any member who has become disqualified because he has been physically
29 absent from three (3) consecutive SEC meetings. The State Chairman shall proceed to fill the
30 vacancy in the manner set forth herein.
31

32 Section 4. In addition to the foregoing reasons for automatic removal from the SEC,
33 a member may be removed for cause. "Cause" shall consist of disqualification, violation of the
34 oath of office, or serious violation of the material duties of office outlined in Article II Section 3
35 of the TRP Bylaws (including, but not limited to, ceasing to be a bona fide Republican).
36 "Disqualification" is defined as open and overt support of a declared non-Republican candidate
37 in either a contested primary or general election in which candidates run under party labels; or
38 having been determined by the SEC to have engaged in conduct unfit for a member of that body.
39 To remove a member for cause, at least two other members must file a written motion with the
40 State Chairman, stating the specific reason for the proposed removal. They must also send a
41 copy to the member for whom removal is being proposed, by certified mail, return receipt
42 requested, addressed to the member's last address known to the State Chairman or the Secretary.
43 Such motion shall be filed and the copy sent at least forty-five (45) days before the SEC meeting
44 at which the motion to remove is to be acted upon. After receiving the motion, the State
45 Chairman may appoint a committee to investigate the facts set forth in the motion. At the SEC
46 meeting at which the motion is considered, the member of whom removal is sought, and those

1 requesting removal, shall have the right to be heard, present evidence, and call witnesses. It shall
2 not be necessary to follow the rules of evidence or other procedures followed in courts of law or
3 equity; hearsay evidence shall be allowed. The affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the SEC
4 members who are physically present and voting, and qualified to vote at the meeting at which
5 such vote is taken, at which a quorum of thirty-four (34) members is physically present, shall be
6 required for removal. Proxies shall be permitted on other issues voted on at such a meeting, but
7 shall not be permitted on the vote for or against removing the member. If the member is
8 removed, his removal shall take effect immediately upon the State Chairman's announcement of
9 the vote. The vacancy shall be filled in accordance with Section 2A above.

10
11 Section 5. This Article III is based upon Tennessee Code Annotated (hereinafter,
12 "TCA") Sections 2-13-103 through 2-13-105 and any related sections which create and form the
13 legal authority for the SEC. Amendments of any of such sections shall constitute automatic
14 amendments of these Bylaws, if such amendments conflict with or are not covered by these
15 Bylaws.

16 17 **ARTICLE IV** 18 **OFFICERS**

19
20 Section 1. The Officers of the TRP shall be the State Chairman, the Vice-Chairman,
21 the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Vice-Treasurer, and such other Officers as the SEC deems
22 appropriate. The Officers need not be members of the SEC. The SEC shall elect the Officers in
23 December of each even-numbered year. Any contested race for Officer shall be conducted by
24 secret ballot. Proxies shall not be permitted in the election of Officers. Officers shall serve a
25 term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected and qualified. Officers who are not
26 members of the SEC shall not vote at SEC meetings. If no candidate receives a majority vote, a
27 runoff shall be held between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes. If there is
28 a tie, successive votes shall continue to be taken until there is a winner of a majority vote.

29
30 Section 2. Officers can be removed, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of
31 two-thirds (2/3) of the SEC members who are physically present and qualified to vote at the
32 meeting at which such vote is taken, at which a quorum of thirty-four (34) members is physically
33 present. Proxies shall be permitted on other issues voted on at such a meeting, but shall not be
34 permitted on the vote for or against removing the officer. The procedure to be followed for
35 removal shall be the same as that set forth for removal of SEC members in Article III, Section 4
36 above.

37
38 Section 3. The State Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the TRP and
39 of the SEC. He shall be responsible for the management and administration of the affairs of the
40 SEC. He shall preside at all meetings of the Officers and of the SEC; coordinate the political
41 activities of the TRP; and supervise and direct advance planning of the political activities of the
42 TRP, including consulting with the campaigns of Republican candidates in general elections. He
43 shall preserve decorum and order at meetings, and shall decide all questions of order and
44 procedure, subject to an appeal by any member to all SEC members present when the question of
45 order arises. He shall be a member of all subcommittees. He shall submit an annual budget to
46 the SEC not later than three (3) months before the close of each fiscal year. He shall approve (by

1 his signature) all check requests for disbursements of TRP funds, and a copy of the check for the
2 disbursement shall be attached to the check request and maintained as part of the Party's financial
3 records. He shall have such powers and responsibilities as shall be delegated to him from time to
4 time by the SEC, and those general and customary powers which are usually exercised by chief
5 executive officers. He may employ staff personnel, and establish their compensation. The State
6 Chairman shall have the authority as to the persons who are employed to fill TRP staff positions,
7 their compensation, and as to their tenure in such positions. The Administrative Committee shall
8 have the authority to overturn a hire with a vote of three fourths (3/4) of the committee at their
9 next regularly scheduled meeting. Upon the election of a new State Chairman (at the beginning
10 of a term or to fill a vacancy), the SEC shall determine whether the State Chairman shall be
11 compensated; and, if so, the level of such compensation.
12

13 Section 4. The Vice-Chairman, who shall be the sex opposite the State Chairman,
14 shall perform the duties of the State Chairman in his absence. If both the State Chairman and the
15 Vice-Chairman are absent from an SEC meeting, the SEC shall elect a temporary State Chairman
16 to preside at such meeting.
17

18 Section 5. The Secretary shall take the minutes of each meeting of the SEC and the
19 Administrative Subcommittee created in Article VI, Section I below, including all such meetings
20 held by conference call. If the Secretary must be absent from such a meeting, he shall be
21 responsible for obtaining a replacement. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as may
22 be assigned by the State Chairman or the SEC. All records of the Secretary shall be and remain
23 the property of the SEC, and shall be maintained at the principal office of the Tennessee
24 Republican Party. Minutes from meetings of the SEC and the Administrative Subcommittee shall
25 be submitted within seven (7) business days after each meeting to the State Chairman and
26 appropriate staff at the TRP.
27

28 Section 6. The Treasurer shall be responsible for implementing an internal system of
29 financial controls, shall review TRP books on a monthly basis, shall be available to assist the
30 Party's bookkeeper and the State Chairman as needed, and shall be responsible for preparation of
31 standard yearly financial statements. The term "internal system of financial controls" shall
32 include, but shall not be limited to, maintenance of all bank statements and cancelled checks and
33 deposit records, photocopies of other copies of all receipts and disbursements, and the invoices,
34 check requests or other documentation substantiating each disbursement; copies of
35 documentation of all internal transfers between accounts; copies of all reports filed with any
36 governmental body including the Federal Election Commission or the Tennessee Registry of
37 Election Finance; copies of all tax returns and schedules and exhibits and all supporting
38 documentation; monthly, quarterly and annual statements of profit and loss and balance sheets;
39 all documentation needed in order for the preparation of the "review" referred to elsewhere; and
40 proper backup (off-site) of all computer records. Records shall be maintained for such periods of
41 time as are required by law, and thereafter as recommended by the Tennessee Republican Party's
42 outside accountants. He shall assist in the performance of a "review," as that term is customarily
43 used by accountants, of the TRP's books and records and financial statements, at the end of each
44 State Chairman's term and whenever the SEC determines that a "review" is needed. He shall be
45 responsible for state and federal financial and election disclosures, and shall represent the Party
46 at any hearings of the State Registry of Election Finance or the Federal Election Commission.

1 The books and records shall be maintained at the principal office of the Tennessee Republican
2 Party, and shall be open to inspection by any member of the SEC at reasonable times. The
3 Treasurer shall report, at each regular or special meeting of the SEC, all receipts and
4 disbursements since the previous meeting. The SEC may require that the Treasurer give a bond
5 to secure the proper performance of his duties. If it does so, the premium for said bond shall be
6 paid from the funds of the TRP. All records of the Treasurer shall be and remain the property of
7 the SEC.
8

9 Section 7. The Vice-Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in performing his duties. If
10 the SEC requires the Vice-Treasurer to obtain a bond to insure the proper performance of his
11 duties, the premium for said bond shall be paid out of the funds of the TRP.
12

13 Section 8. If an office created in this Article becomes vacant, the SEC shall elect a
14 person to serve during the remainder of the unexpired term. If the office of State Chairman or
15 Treasurer becomes vacant, the Vice-Chairman or Vice-Treasurer shall automatically fill the
16 vacant office temporarily, until the SEC elects a new State Chairman or Treasurer. If the
17 Chairman elected to fill an unexpired term is of the same sex as the Vice-Chairman, it shall not
18 be necessary to replace the Vice-Chairman with a new Vice-Chairman of the opposite sex until
19 the end of the term. If the office of Vice-Chairman becomes vacant, the Vice-Chairman elected
20 to fill the unexpired term shall be of the opposite sex from the person then serving as the elected
21 Chairman.
22

23 **ARTICLE V**

24 **MEETINGS OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

25

26 Section 1. The SEC shall hold at least three (3) regular meetings per year. The State
27 Chairman shall determine the date of each of said regular meetings. However, one (1) of said
28 meetings shall take place on the first or second Saturday of each December (beginning in 1994),
29 and no more than six (6) months shall elapse between regular meetings. Notice of the exact date,
30 time and place of each regular meeting, an agenda outlining principle items to be discussed,
31 proxy forms, and any other materials required by these Bylaws shall be mailed to each Officer,
32 member and ex-officio member at least thirty (30) days before the date of said meeting.
33 Substantial compliance with the foregoing notice requirements shall be sufficient, and the extent
34 of the description of the agenda to be included in the notice shall be at the State Chairman's
35 discretion. By January 31 of each calendar year, the State Chairman shall set and provide to
36 members the dates for each meeting to be held during that year.
37

38 Section 2. Special meetings of the SEC can be called by the State Chairman on his
39 own motion, or on the request of at least twenty-two (22) members of the SEC residing in at least
40 four (4) congressional districts. Notice of such special meetings shall be given in the manner
41 described in Section 1 above, except that notice may be shortened to 10 days for good cause.
42

43 Section 3. A quorum for the transaction of business at an SEC meeting shall consist
44 of thirty-four (34) members present in person or by proxy, but at least twenty-two (22) members
45 shall be present in person except as provided elsewhere in these Bylaws. A majority of those
46 present in person or by proxy at a duly constituted meeting shall be sufficient to vote on any

1 question, unless specifically excepted elsewhere in these Bylaws.
2

3 Section 4. An SEC member may give his proxy to any other SEC member. The
4 proxy shall name the individual authorized to exercise the SEC member's vote. It shall state the
5 date of the meeting for which the proxy shall be effective, and the limitations or instructions, if
6 any, under which the designated proxy shall be voted. No individual shall be permitted to hold
7 and exercise more than two valid Proxies at any meeting.
8

9 Section 5. The most recent revised edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all
10 proceedings of the SEC on matters not specifically covered by these Bylaws.
11

12 Section 6. Except as otherwise provided herein, whenever the SEC is required or
13 permitted to take any action by vote, such action may be taken without a meeting, on written
14 consent, including electronic communication, by a majority of the full voting membership of the
15 SEC, after the question has been presented to the full voting membership in writing, setting forth
16 the action for which consent is sought. Actions shall not be taken without a meeting on written
17 consent on the following: Election of officers, amendment of the Bylaws, and removal of SEC
18 members or Officers.
19

20 **ARTICLE VI** 21 **SUBCOMMITTEES** 22

23 Section 1. There shall be five (5) standing Subcommittees of the SEC: Bylaws and
24 Rules; Finance and Budget; Communications; Political; and Administrative. The State Chairman
25 shall assign every SEC member to at least one (1) standing Subcommittee.
26

27 A. Bylaws and Rules: The duties of Bylaws and Rules Subcommittee shall
28 include, but are not limited to, updating and improving the current governing document
29 of the TRP as well as assisting and ensuring county parties submit Bylaws and approve
30 proposed changes to county Bylaws.
31

32 B. Finance and Budget: The duties of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee
33 shall include, but are not limited to, assisting in the development and approval of a
34 budget, assisting in the growth of TRP's donor membership and the promotion of
35 purchasing tickets and sponsorship for TRP fundraising events including the Annual
36 Statesmen's Dinner.
37

38 C. Communications: The duties of the Communications Subcommittee shall
39 include, but are not limited to, evaluating issue resolutions, working with county parties
40 to establish and maintain appropriate forms of communications including email lists,
41 websites and all social media accounts as well as ensuring county parties and local
42 candidates are submitting up-to-date and accurate contact information to the TRP.
43

44 D. Political: The duties of the Political Subcommittee shall include, but are
45 not limited to, helping county parties elect Republicans on the local level, assisting when
46 needed in candidate recruitment, ensuring that county parties and local candidates know

1 and understand election notification and filing deadlines, as well as providing support to
2 ensure candidate qualification requirements are met.
3
4

5 Section 2. The Administrative Subcommittee shall consist of the State Chairman, the
6 Officers of the TRP, the Chairmen of the standing Subcommittees, the RNC Committeeman and
7 Committeewoman, the TFRW President, the TYRF State Chair, and three (3) to five (5) SEC
8 members. Under no circumstances shall lists of the TRP's financial contributors be given out
9 without prior approval of the Administrative Subcommittee.
10

11 Section 3. The State Chairman, with the advice and consent of the SEC, shall appoint
12 the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, and members of the remaining four (4) standing Subcommittees.
13 The Chairmen of such Subcommittees shall be members of the SEC. The State Chairman may
14 appoint additional members of such Subcommittees, who are not required to be members of the
15 SEC. Each of the remaining four (4) standing Subcommittees shall have at least one (1) member
16 from each Congressional District. Each of the remaining Subcommittees shall have a secretary
17 appointed by the Subcommittee Chairman. Minutes of the subcommittee meetings shall be
18 submitted within seven (7) business days after each meeting to the State Chairman,
19 subcommittee members, and appropriate staff at the TRP.
20

21 Section 4. The Subcommittee Chairmen and members may be removed, with or
22 without cause, either by a majority vote of the full membership of the SEC, or by the State
23 Chairman.
24

25 Section 5. The State Chair, upon election or re-election, shall appoint all
26 Subcommittee Chairman and members in accordance with Article VI, Section 3 of these Bylaws.
27 All Subcommittee Chairman and members shall serve on the Subcommittee until such time as
28 their successors are duly appointed, except in cases of resignation or removal.
29

30 Section 6. The State Chairman shall be the Chairman of the Administrative
31 Subcommittee. Notwithstanding Article III, Section 3, in the absence of the State Chairman, the
32 TRP Vice-Chairman shall preside over the Administrative Subcommittee. The State Chairman
33 shall also be a voting member of all other Subcommittees.
34

35 Section 7. The State Chairman may create and appoint any special or temporary
36 Subcommittees which he deems to be in the best interest of the TRP. Such Subcommittees may
37 include or may consist of persons other than members of the SEC. Any special or temporary
38 Subcommittees created under this section shall cease to exist upon the election of a new State
39 Chairman.
40

41 Section 8. A special temporary Bylaws and Rules Subcommittee for Reorganization
42 will be formed by December 15th every even numbered year to prepare for the upcoming County
43 Party Reorganizations. This Subcommittee will cease to exist following the April 15th deadline
44 for biennial reorganizations.
45

46 **ARTICLE VII**

1
2
3 **AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

4 Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended by a majority of the full voting
5 membership of the SEC at any meeting, provided that notice of the meeting at which the vote is
6 to be taken includes a copy of the proposed amendment.

7 Section 2. The proposed amendment(s) to the Bylaws may not be amended from the
8 floor at the SEC meeting, unless such amendment is minor and non-substantive, and is passed by
9 acclamation. Any amendment which is not minor or which is substantive shall require re-
10 commencement of the amendment procedure, including notice of the proposed amendment being
11 included with notice of the subsequent SEC meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be
12 considered.

13
14 **ARTICLE VIII**
15 **COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTIES**

16
17 Section 1. County Parties shall exist to promote Republican ideals, values, and
18 Republican elected officials across Tennessee while, at the same time, helping Republican
19 nominees defeat Democrats in general elections.

20
21 Section 2. The Republican Party in each County shall adopt Bylaws consistent with
22 and in accordance with those of the TRP and the Republican National Committee, and may adopt
23 additional Rules, which shall also be consistent therewith. County Bylaws and Rules, and any
24 amendments thereto, must be approved by the Rules and Bylaws Subcommittee of the SEC of
25 the TRP, and shall be filed with the TRP immediately after their adoption. The Rules and Bylaws
26 Subcommittee may, for good cause shown, grant waivers of state Bylaws.

27
28 A. Every four years each county party's newly elected CEC must evaluate its
29 Bylaws and may make any necessary changes.

30
31 B. The Bylaws will be due by September 30th of each year immediately
32 following a presidential election; all counties must submit their Bylaws by this time. Counties
33 that fail to submit Bylaws by this date will have their Bylaws defaulted to county Bylaws
34 template approved by the TRP's Rules and Bylaws Committee. Any changes to the Bylaws
35 template approved by the Rules and Bylaws Subcommittee shall immediately apply to all county
36 parties using the Bylaws template. County Parties using the Bylaws template shall be notified of
37 changes with seven (7) business days.

38
39 C. County parties may make changes to their Bylaws at any time, but they
40 must submit a copy to be reviewed and approved by the TRP's Bylaws and Rules Committee
41 before they are recognized as the new county party Bylaws. The Bylaws and Rules Committee
42 may require changes to be made prior to approving the Bylaws.

43
44 D. Any changes to the Bylaws of the TRP shall supersede a county party's
45 Bylaws should there be any conflict.

1 Section 3. Each CEC shall meet at least quarterly. The CEC is defined as the County
2 Party's elected Republican Party Officers as stated in Article VIII, Section 6, the SEC member(s)
3 representing that County, the President of any Tennessee Federated Republican Women's Club in
4 that County, the Chairman of the County Young Republicans, the immediate past County
5 Chairman, and any other elected members as defined by the County Party's Bylaws. These
6 positions are the only members on the CEC who have a vote. Chairmen or representatives of
7 local political subdivisions within a County, such as Precincts or Council Districts, shall not be
8 voting members of CECs. In counties with 250,000 or more residents, separate elected district
9 chairs may be included as voting members of the CEC as stated in their approved Bylaws. If
10 there is not a Tennessee Federated Republican Women's Club or a Young Republicans Club in
11 that County, the State Chairman may appoint a person from that County to represent those
12 constituencies. At these meetings, SEC members who are unable to attend may send a proxy
13 vote, either written or electronic, to another voting member.
14

15 Section 4. Every odd-numbered year, each County Republican Party shall reorganize
16 itself in accordance with procedures set forth in the Rules accompanying these Bylaws, and in
17 accordance with the County Party's Bylaws and applicable Rules. The County Party shall notify
18 the TRP at least 30 days in advance of its convention held for the purpose of reorganizing.
19

20 Section 5. The following shall be requirements for candidacy to county party leadership:
21

22 A. For a County Party Chairman and other voting officers as defined in the
23 County Party Bylaws:

24 1. Any individual who is actively involved in the Tennessee
25 Republican Party, his County Republican Party, or any recognized auxiliary organization of
26 either; and resides and is registered to vote in said county; and
27

28 2. Any individual who has voted in the last three Statewide
29 Republican primaries in his county of residence during those primary elections³. Younger
30 Republicans who may not have been of legal age for three primary elections must obtain
31 approval from the State Chairman; and
32

33 B. For any other County Party leadership position:
34

35 1. Any individual who has voted in at least two of the last four
36 Statewide Republican primaries in his county of residence during those primary elections.
37 Younger Republicans who may not have been of legal age for four primary elections must obtain
38 approval from the State Chairman; and either
39

40 2. Any individual who is actively involved in the Tennessee
41 Republican Party, his County Republican Party, or any recognized auxiliary organization of
42 either; and resides and is registered to vote in said county; or

³ Pursuant to the minutes from the December 3, 2011 SEC Meeting, the phrase referencing “the last three Republican primaries in his county of residence”, was approved with the understanding that this would not require one to have voted in three primaries in the same residence. This allows for an individual to have moved from county to county and state to state.

1
2 3. Any individual who is vouched for in writing to the satisfaction of
3 the State Chairman as a bona fide Republican, such as by an officer of the TRP, a member of the
4 SEC, or CEC of the County where the individual resides. The State Chairman may require
5 additional verification that the individual in question is indeed a bona fide Republican, and shall
6 have final authority to make the determination.
7

8 C. The TRP and each CEC shall maintain a list of all recognized auxiliary
9 organizations for the application of the foregoing standards.
10

11 1. Each CEC shall submit an updated list of recognized auxiliary
12 organizations prior to their biennial reorganization. The State Chairman has final authority on all
13 approved auxiliary organizations.
14

15 D. "Actively involved in" in the foregoing section shall be defined as a
16 quantifiable contribution including, but not limited to, time or money to Tennessee Republican
17 Party, his County Republican Party, or any recognized auxiliary organization of either during the
18 time period since the most recent County Republican Party reorganization.
19

20 Section 6. The County Party Officers are, but are not limited to, Chairman, Vice-
21 Chairman of the opposite sex from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Treasurer, and such
22 other similar officers, including additional Vice-Chairmen or Directors, as may be deemed
23 appropriate, and as may be provided for in the County Party's duly adopted and approved
24 Bylaws. County Party Officers shall also include the County Party's legal counsel, who shall be
25 appointed by the County Chairman, but who shall not have a vote in that position. A County
26 Party legal counsel shall not be prohibited from simultaneously holding a voting position as a
27 County Party Officer or other CEC member. Chairmen or representatives of local political
28 subdivisions within a County, such as Precincts or Council Districts, shall not be considered
29 CEC members or party officers and do not have a vote. In counties with 250,000 or more
30 residents, separate elected district chairs may be included as voting members of the CEC as
31 stated in their approved Bylaws. The Vice-Chairman or Vice-Treasurer shall automatically
32 assume the office of Chairman or Treasurer, respectively, on a temporary basis, if either of said
33 offices should become vacant.
34

35 Section 7. The CEC shall proceed to elect a new Chairman or Treasurer, as the case
36 may be, and fill any other office which becomes vacant, by majority vote, at a duly called
37 meeting within thirty (30) days after such vacancy occurs. An officer elected to fill a vacancy
38 shall serve until the next County Party reorganization, and until his successor is duly elected and
39 takes office. These officers must also qualify as bona fide Republican County Party Officers
40 (See Article VIII, Section 5). A vacancy in a County office occurs if an Officer dies, resigns,
41 changes his residence out of the County, is removed from office, or otherwise becomes
42 disqualified or unable to serve his complete term. No County Chairman shall serve more than
43 two (2) full consecutive terms, except in counties with a population of less than 50,000. The
44 CEC may request a waiver from the State Bylaws Subcommittee if absolutely necessary.
45

46 Section 8. A County Party Chairman running for public office in a contested

1 Republican primary shall resign his position within ten (10) days after the filing deadline.
2

3 **ARTICLE IX**
4 **MISCELLANEOUS**
5

6 Section 1. The following shall be Party membership requirements for candidacy to
7 public office, and appointment to positions such as Election Commissions. The TRP hereby
8 defines the term "bona fide Republican," or the like, as:
9

10 A. Any individual who is actively involved in the Tennessee Republican
11 Party, his County Republican Party, or any recognized auxiliary organization of either; and
12 resides and is registered to vote in said county; and either
13

14 B. Any individual who has voted in at least three (3) of the four (4) most
15 recent Statewide Republican primary elections; or
16

17 C. Any individual who is vouched for in writing to the satisfaction of the
18 State Chairman as a bona fide Republican, such as by an officer of the TRP, a member of the
19 SEC, CEC of the County where the individual resides, or a Republican elected official. The State
20 Chairman may require additional verification that the individual in question is indeed a bona fide
21 Republican, and shall have final authority to make the determination.
22

23 D. The TRP and each CEC shall maintain a list of all recognized auxiliary
24 organizations for the application of the foregoing standards.
25

26 a. Each CEC shall submit an updated list of recognized auxiliary
27 organizations prior to their biennial reorganization. The State Chairman has final authority on all
28 approved auxiliary organizations.
29

30 E. "Actively involved in" in the foregoing section shall be defined as a
31 quantifiable contribution including, but not limited to, time or money to Tennessee Republican
32 Party, his County Republican Party, or any recognized auxiliary organization of either during the
33 time period since the most recent County Republican Party reorganization.
34

35 Section 2. If a person's bona fide status is challenged, the challenge shall be made to
36 the State Chairman from at least two (2) individual registered voters within the district in which
37 the challenged candidate has filed to run. Such a challenge must be made no later than five (5)
38 days before the deadline for removal of a candidate's name from a ballot under TCA Section 2-5-
39 204 or otherwise, or any other applicable deadline. The State Chairman may require sufficient
40 proof of the challenged individual's status as a bona fide Republican, and the SEC hereby
41 delegates to the State Chairman the authority to make the decision as to whether or not the
42 challenged individual shall be considered a bona fide Republican for the purposes in question.
43

44 Section 3. These Bylaws shall be effective on and after their adoption by the SEC.
45 All previous Bylaws or Rules inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.
46

1 Section 4. The use of the masculine shall include the feminine and neuter. The use
2 of the feminine shall include the masculine and neuter. The use of the neuter shall include the
3 masculine and feminine. The use of the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa.
4

5 Section 5. These Bylaws are intended to be in conformity with all Bylaws, rules and
6 regulations of the national Republican Party, including the Republican National Committee; with
7 governing federal and Tennessee statutes, rules and regulations; and other law. If any of the
8 foregoing are amended hereafter with the effect that these Bylaws are in conflict therewith, these
9 Bylaws shall be deemed amended to conform therewith. The SEC shall as soon as possible
10 thereafter cause these Bylaws to be expressly amended to conform therewith.
11

12 Section 6. From time to time, the SEC may adopt Rules and Regulations to set forth
13 or govern procedures to be followed, conditions to be met, and actions to be taken by the TRP,
14 the SEC, County Republican Parties, and/or affiliated Republican organizations. Such Rules and
15 Regulations shall have the full force and effect of these Bylaws. The bodies affected by such
16 Rules and Regulations, or changes thereto, shall promptly take such action as is necessary to
17 conform therewith. Such Rules and Regulations shall be adopted or amended in the same
18 manner as amendments to these Bylaws as set forth in Article VII.
19

20 10/08/93

21 Revised 03/19/94

22 Finalized 08/25/94

23
24
25 New Revision Drafts May 29, 2001

26 June 4, 2001

27 August 7, 2001

28 September 26, 2001

29 October 22, 2001

30 October 30, 2001

31 February 24, 2002

32 Amended April 6, 2002 by State Executive Committee

33 Amended April 9, 2002 by State Executive Committee

34 Amended December 4, 2010 by State Executive Committee

35 Amended April 16, 2011 by vote of State Executive Committee Members.

36 Amended December 3, 2011 by vote of the State Executive Committee Members

37 Amended March 31, 2012 by vote of the State Executive Committee Members

38 Amended February 9, 2013 by vote of the State Executive Committee Members

39 Amended December 6, 2013 by vote of the State Executive Committee Members

40 Amended July 25, 2015 by vote of the State Executive Committee Members

41 Amended August 13, 2016 by vote of the State Executive Committee Members

42 Amended August 26, 2017 by vote of the State Executive Committee Members
43

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**RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE TENNESSEE REPUBLICAN PARTY**

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**RULE A
REPRESENTATION ON REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

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12
13

Section 1. The Tennessee Republican Party shall be represented on the Republican National Committee by the State Chairman, who shall serve ex officio, and by one (1) National Committeeman and one (1) National Committeewoman, selected as hereinafter provided.

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Section 2. Before each quadrennial Republican National Convention, the SEC shall select the National Committeeman and Committeewoman in the following manner:

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23

A. The State Chairman shall place on the agenda of an SEC meeting, the selection of the National Committeeman and National Committeewoman. The selection of each shall be made separately, and may occur at a regular or a special meeting of the SEC.

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B. The State Chairman may promulgate rules concerning the selection procedure, including but not limited to the order of selection, the length of nominating or seconding speeches, and other procedural matters not covered specifically by this Rule or the Bylaws of the Party. Such rules shall be distributed to all members of the SEC at least five (5) days before said meeting.

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C. Any member of the SEC may nominate any qualified individual for either of said offices. Each nomination must be seconded by another member of the SEC.

D. After all nominations are made and seconded, the SEC shall elect the National Committeemen. On the request of any member of the SEC, the voting shall be by secret ballot. The State Chairman shall preside over the election, and may delegate to others such duties as are appropriate to assist him in carrying out the election process and in counting votes. Each qualified member of the SEC shall be entitled to vote at each ballot, but proxies shall not be permitted. "Qualified member" shall mean a member duly elected as provided in the Bylaws, who is not an ex officio member, who is not subject to automatic removal from office, and who has not been removed for other cause.

E. The State Chairman shall have no vote, in the event of a tie or otherwise, unless he is a qualified member of the SEC in his own right.

F. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes shall be the National Committeeman or National Committeewoman. "Majority" shall mean more than one-half (1/2) of the elected and qualified members present, whether or not such members actually cast ballots. Ex officio members of the SEC shall not be counted in determining a majority. If no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, a "run-off" vote shall be taken between the two candidates receiving the most votes on the first ballot. The candidate attaining a majority in this "run-off" vote shall be declared the winner. If there is a tie vote on the second ballot, succeeding ballots shall be taken until one of the two candidates receives a majority and is thereby elected. Any

1 elected and qualified member of the SEC who abstains from voting on one balloting shall not be
2 prohibited from voting on a subsequent balloting.
3

4 Section 3. Any bona fide member of the Republican Party duly registered to vote in
5 Tennessee, and residing therein at the time of such election, shall be eligible to hold such office.
6 A National Committeeperson shall cease to be qualified to hold office, and his office shall be
7 deemed vacant, in the event of death, removal of his residence from the State, inability to serve,
8 inattention to duties, by duly tendered and accepted resignation, or for other cause. A National
9 Committeeperson may be removed from office for inability to serve or inattention to duties, or
10 for other cause, if he does not voluntarily resign, pursuant to the procedures set forth in the
11 Bylaws for removal of a SEC member. In the event of such removal, the action of the SEC shall
12 be final and conclusive for all purposes. Any resignation shall be tendered to the State
13 Chairman. Its acceptance shall be by formal action of the SEC by a duly carried motion or
14 resolution.
15

16 Section 4. Each National Committeeperson shall serve a four (4) year term, or until
17 his or her successor shall be duly elected, unless the Committeeperson ceases to be qualified to
18 hold office, resigns or is removed. There shall be a limit of two (2) successive full terms to
19 which a person may be elected.
20

21 Section 5. If there is a vacancy in the office of National Committeeperson, the State
22 Chairman shall declare the vacancy. Alternatively, the SEC may declare a vacancy by
23 resolution. The State Chairman shall schedule an election to fill such vacancy at a regular or
24 special meeting of the SEC to take place within ninety (90) days thereafter. Said election shall
25 be carried out as provided in this Rule A, but the term of the newly-elected National
26 Committeeperson shall be effective only as to the remainder of the term of office during which
27 the vacancy occurred.
28

29 Section 6. At each Republican National Convention, the Chairman of the Tennessee
30 Delegation to said Convention shall announce and/or certify to such Convention, pursuant to the
31 rules thereof, the selection of the National Committeepersons. Said Convention shall proceed to
32 ratify or confirm such selection as provided by its rules.
33

34 Section 7. If a meeting of the Republican National Committee is held when there is a
35 vacancy in the office of National Committeeman or National Committeewoman for Tennessee,
36 or if a meeting is held at a time when a National Committeeperson cannot attend, the State
37 Chairman shall appoint an Alternate Committeeman or Committeewoman for such meeting (if
38 and to the extent authorized by the rules of the Republican National Committee). Such Alternate
39 shall have and exercise the rights and privileges of such office to the full extent permitted by the
40 Republican National Committee.
41

42 Section 8. If there is a meeting of the Republican National Committee at a time when
43 there is a vacancy in the office of State Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall substitute for the
44 State Chairman as the ex officio member for Tennessee, if and to the extent permitted by the
45 Republican National Committee.
46

1 Section 9. If there is a conflict between this Rule A and any applicable rules of the
2 Republican National Committee, the latter shall govern.
3

4 **RULE B**
5 **PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS**
6

7 Section 1. The Tennessee Republican Party hereby adopts this Rule to provide for
8 the selection of Republican nominees for Presidential Elector, as defined by TCA Sections 2-15-
9 101 through 2-15-105.
10

11 Section 2. After the first Tuesday in May and before the first Tuesday in September
12 of each Presidential election year, or before any earlier deadline set by applicable law, the SEC
13 shall elect one (1) Elector for each Congressional District, who shall be a resident of such
14 District, and two (2) Electors for the State at large. When selected, those names shall appear on
15 the ballot as the Electors representing the Republican candidates for President and Vice-
16 President of the United States, and who shall perform the duties of a Presidential Elector as
17 defined by the laws of Tennessee and the United States then in effect. When performing the
18 duties of a Presidential Elector, he shall vote for the candidates for President and Vice-President
19 who are the nominees of the national Republican Party, unless one or both of said persons has
20 ceased to be the national Republican Party's nominee, in which case he shall vote for an
21 individual approved by the Tennessee Republican Party, unless prohibited from doing so by
22 federal or state statute, a binding court ruling, or the Rules of the Republican National
23 Committee.
24

25 Section 3. The State Chairman shall call for the selection of Electors at a regular or
26 special meeting of the SEC. The State Chairman shall appoint a Nominating Committee
27 pursuant to Article VI, Section 7 of the Bylaws, which shall nominate a slate of proposed
28 Electors prior to the time when notice of the SEC meeting is required to be sent. Additional
29 nominations may be made from the floor at such meeting. The State Chairman shall adopt rules
30 to govern the holding of the election, as provided in Rule A above.
31

32 **RULE C**
33 **ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION**
34

35 Section 1. Three (3) Delegates to the Republican National Convention shall be
36 elected from each Congressional District, on the ballot in the Tennessee Presidential Preference
37 Primary. The Delegates and Alternates from each Congressional District shall be bona fide
38 Republicans, and bona fide residents of and legally registered voters in the District for which
39 they are Delegates and Alternates.
40

41 Section 2. The remaining number of Delegates, as determined by the rules of the
42 Republican National Committee, shall be allocated as follows: Half shall be elected from the
43 State at large on the ballot in said Presidential Preference Primary. The remaining number of
44 Delegates, including any odd number or delegate positions not filled through election due to a
45 lack of qualified candidates, shall be appointed from the State at large by the SEC, with the
46 advice of the respective Presidential campaigns. A corresponding number of Alternates to such

1 Delegates shall be appointed from the State at large in the same manner, separately from the
2 selection of Alternates to elected Delegates under Section 3 below. At large Delegates and
3 Alternates shall be bona fide Republicans, and bona fide residents of and legally registered
4 voters in Tennessee.
5

6 Section 3. The official campaign of each Presidential candidate earning Delegate and
7 Alternate positions shall offer Alternate positions to those persons who unsuccessfully sought
8 election to be Delegates, having already met the approval of that Presidential campaign. Each
9 such Delegate candidate shall be offered the right of first refusal to a position as an Alternate to a
10 seat for which he was a candidate, in descending order based on the popular vote count. If all of
11 the positions for a candidate's Alternates are not filled from among such candidates for Delegate,
12 the Presidential campaign shall then choose any bona fide Republican as such Alternate. The
13 position of Alternate to an uncommitted Delegate, if such is created, shall be filled from those
14 seeking election as uncommitted Delegates, in descending order of votes received.
15

16 Section 4-A. District Delegate and Alternate Entitlements. For the purpose of
17 determining the entitlement to District Delegates and Alternates by Presidential candidates, the
18 provisions of this Section shall apply, as follows:
19

20 A Presidential candidate receiving more than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes in any
21 Congressional District shall be entitled to three (3) Delegates and Alternates from that
22 Congressional District.
23

24 If no Presidential candidate receives more than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes in any
25 Congressional District, the plurality winner is entitled to two (2) Delegates and Alternates from
26 that District, and the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes receives one (1)
27 Delegate and Alternate; provided, however, that if the plurality winner receives more than
28 twenty percent (20%) and the number of votes received by the next highest candidate is less than
29 twenty percent (20%), the plurality winner is entitled to three (3) Delegates and Alternates.
30

31 If no Presidential candidate receives more than twenty percent (20%), each of the
32 three (3) candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall receive one (1) Delegate and
33 Alternate.
34

35 Section 4-B. At-Large Delegate and Alternate Entitlements. For the purposes of
36 determining the entitlement to At-Large Delegates and Alternates by Presidential candidates, the
37 provisions of this Section shall apply, as follows:
38

39 A Presidential candidate receiving more than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast in
40 the Presidential Primary, canvassed on a statewide basis, shall be entitled to all At-Large
41 Delegates and Alternates allocated to Tennessee under the Rules of the National Republican
42 Party.
43

44 If no Presidential candidate receives two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast statewide in
45 the Presidential Primary, the At-Large Delegates and Alternates shall be apportioned among the
46 candidates receiving more than twenty percent (20%) of the statewide vote, in the ratio which the

1 number of votes received by each such candidate who received more than twenty percent (20%)
2 of the statewide vote bears to the total of all such candidates receiving more than twenty percent
3 (20%) of the statewide vote, rounding fractional Delegates and Alternates upward to the next
4 whole number beginning with the Presidential candidate receiving the largest number of votes.
5

6 If no Presidential candidate receives more than twenty percent (20%) of the statewide
7 vote, the At-Large Delegates and Alternates shall be apportioned among such candidates in the
8 ratio which the number of votes received by each candidate bears to the total statewide vote,
9 beginning with the Presidential candidate receiving the highest number of votes, and rounding
10 fractional Delegates and Alternates to the second highest candidate in the same manner, and so
11 forth, until the Delegates and Alternates to be apportioned have been fully awarded.
12

13 Section 5. If a duly selected Delegate dies, resigns, or is otherwise unable or fails to
14 attend the Republican Convention or any session thereof, his Alternate Delegate shall succeed to
15 such office during the absence of the Delegate. If, more than thirty (30) days before the
16 convention, a Delegate's position becomes vacant and is not filled by his Alternate or if an
17 Alternate's position becomes vacant, the position shall be filled in accordance with Paragraph 3
18 above. If such a vacancy is not filled by thirty (30) days before the convention, it shall be filled
19 in the manner described in the following sentence. If, thirty (30) or fewer days before the
20 convention or during the convention, a Delegate's position becomes vacant and is not filled by
21 his Alternate, or if an Alternate's position becomes vacant, the State Chairman, with the advice
22 and consent of the Administrative Committee, shall fill the vacant Delegate or Alternate position.
23

24 Section 6. If, after a Presidential Primary election in which a certain Presidential
25 candidate earns Delegate positions, the Presidential candidate withdraws from the race, his
26 Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) shall continue to have the right to attend the Convention. If any of
27 them does not attend the Convention, the State Chairman, with the advice and consent of the
28 Administrative Committee, shall select a replacement Delegate or Alternate.
29

30 Section 7. The TRP, through its staff personnel, shall assist in seeing that the
31 procedures set forth in this Rule C are carried out properly and on time.
32

33 Section 8. If any provision of this Rule C is contrary to the Rules and Call of a
34 Republican National Convention, the Rules and Call of the Convention shall govern; and the
35 SEC shall be entitled to rely upon any written opinion of the General Counsel of the Republican
36 National Convention. If any provision of this Rule causes a mathematically impossible result,
37 the SEC is hereby authorized to modify the provision so that a mathematically possible result
38 occurs.
39

40 **RULE D**

41 **COMPREHENSIVE RULE GOVERNING COUNTY PARTY REORGANIZATION**

42 **Part I--General**

43
44
45 Section 1. County Republican Parties shall reorganize themselves between January
46 15 and April 15 of each odd numbered year. Such reorganizations shall be accomplished in the

1 manner set forth in these Rules. If any County Party desires to use a method of reorganization
2 differing from these Rules, its County Chairman and Secretary shall, by January 1 of any odd-
3 numbered year, certify to the State Chairman in writing its proposed reorganization rules, which
4 are subject to approval or disapproval by the TRP Bylaws and Rules Subcommittee. If the
5 proposed rules are disapproved by the TRP Bylaws and Rules Subcommittee before the
6 beginning of the County Party's reorganization process, the County must follow the procedures
7 set forth herein, unless before the beginning of the reorganization process the SEC overrides the
8 decision of the TRP Bylaws and Rules Subcommittee. Before certifying its proposed
9 reorganization rules to the State Chairman, the proposed County rules must previously have been
10 approved by a majority of a County Convention or the CEC. The certification to the State
11 Chairman by the County Chairman and Secretary shall state the date and manner of adopting
12 said proposed County rules, and shall represent that, to the best of their knowledge, information
13 and belief the Convention or CEC meeting at which such proposed County rules were adopted
14 was held in the spirit of fairness, and that fair notice and the opportunity for full participation
15 were given. If a county does not have approved rules from its county regarding reorganizations,
16 then that county will follow the manner set forth in the state rules.

17
18 Section 2. Counties having a population of at least 100,000 people according to the
19 last official U. S. Census shall reorganize by means of a Precinct Delegated Convention.
20 Counties having a population of under 100,000 people according to the last official U. S. Census
21 shall have the choice of reorganizing by means of a Precinct Delegated Convention or by means
22 of a Mass Convention.

23
24 Section 3. The Call for the Reorganizational Meeting.

25
26 A. On or before the January 15 of each odd numbered year, the County
27 Chairman shall call a meeting of the CEC (as defined by Article VIII, Section 3 of the TRP
28 Bylaws, that is, the County Party's elected Republican Party Officers, the SEC member(s)
29 representing that County, the President of any Tennessee Federated Republican Women's Club in
30 that County, the Chairman of the County Young Republicans (or a representative of those two
31 constituencies appointed by the State Chairman), the immediate past County Chairman, and any
32 other members as defined by the County Party's Bylaws), by written notice sent at least 15 days
33 before such meeting. Such meeting shall take place on or before January 30 of each odd
34 numbered year. At such meeting, the Officers present shall constitute a quorum. If the County
35 Chairman fails to call the meeting, the State Chairman shall appoint a temporary County
36 Chairman to carry out the procedures for reorganizing the County Party.

37
38 B. In Counties having a population of at least 100,000 people, such meeting
39 shall fix the time, date and places for the Precinct Conventions and for the Precinct Delegated
40 County Convention. Precinct Conventions and Precinct Delegated County Conventions may be
41 held on the same day with approval by the Rules and Bylaws Subcommittee.

42
43 C. In Counties having a population under 250,000 people, such meeting shall
44 determine whether the County Convention shall be a Precinct Delegated Convention, or a Mass
45 Convention; and shall fix the time, date and place of such Convention. If such Convention is to
46 be a Precinct delegated convention, such meeting shall also fix the time, date and place(s) of the

1 Precinct Conventions, which shall be held at least ten (10) days before the County Convention.
2

3 D. At such meeting, in any event, the County Chairman shall appoint, with
4 the approval of the Officers present, a Parliamentarian and a Contest and Credentials Committee
5 to serve for the County Convention. The Contest and Credentials Committee shall consist of five
6 (5) members from five (5) separate Precincts within the County. The Contest and Credentials
7 Committee shall have the final authority on and announce the eligibility of candidates to run for
8 County Party Officers as set forth in Article VIII, Section 5. A separate Convention Chairman
9 may also be appointed with approval of the Officers present at this same meeting.

10
11 E. No waivers to the rules of reorganization will be granted after February
12 28th
13

14 Section 4. The duties of the Contest and Credentials Committee shall include the
15 following:
16

17 A. It shall prepare instructions for the holding of the Precinct Conventions, if
18 applicable, including the proper number of Delegates to be chosen by each Precinct. The
19 number of Delegates to be elected from each Precinct shall be determined from the official
20 voting records of the last Presidential General Election, and shall be certified in writing and
21 delivered to the existing Precinct Chairman, or person serving in his stead as described in Part II,
22 Section 2A below, along with the ballots for the election of Precinct Officers and Delegates, and
23 certification forms to be used for the Precinct Convention proceedings.
24

25 B. It shall prepare ballots for the election of Precinct Officers and Delegates,
26 certification forms for reporting the results of the elections in the Precinct Conventions, and
27 provide the form for affirmation of Republican allegiance (the form of which is attached hereto
28 as Exhibit A), and any other forms deemed necessary or appropriate for use in the reorganization
29 of the County Party.
30

31 C. It shall meet after the Precinct Conventions and before the County
32 Delegated Convention and review the certifications received from each newly elected Precinct
33 Chairman, and take such other actions as are specified in Part II, Section 5 below.
34

35 D. It shall hear and determine any contests of elections at Precinct
36 Conventions, subject to appeal to the County Delegated Convention as a whole, in the manner
37 set forth below.
38

39 E. Meetings of the Contest and Credentials Committee shall be open to the
40 public.
41

42 Section 5. At least ten (10) days before the Precinct Conventions in a county which
43 reorganizes by means of a Precinct Delegated Convention, and at least ten (10) days before the
44 County Convention in a county which reorganizes by means of a Mass Convention, the County
45 Chairman shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation within said County
46 (no less than 10,000 circulation in Counties having over 100,000 population) a paid

1 advertisement stating the date, time and place for the holding of each Precinct Convention. The
2 Precincts shall have the same geographic boundaries as the Precincts in the previous November
3 general election. Such advertisement shall also specify the date, time and place, and the purpose,
4 for holding the Precinct Delegated Conventions to reorganize the County Party. The
5 advertisement shall also state the name and address of the Chairman of the Contest and
6 Credentials Committee, and shall specify the deadline for filing contests as to the results of any
7 Precinct Convention.
8

9 **Part II--Precinct Conventions**

10
11 Section 1. On the date and at the time and place(s) specified, a Precinct Convention
12 shall be held for each Precinct within the County. The purpose of such Conventions shall be the
13 election of Delegates and Alternate Delegates from such Precinct to the Delegated County
14 Convention, as well as the election of a Precinct Chairman, Vice-Chairman and such other
15 Officers as may be desired, and the transaction of such other business as may be appropriate.
16

17 Section 2. The order of business for the Precinct Convention shall be as follows:
18

19 A. The then-existing Precinct Chairman shall convene the meeting. If he is
20 unable to be present, the Precinct Vice-Chairman, if any, shall preside. If there is no Vice-
21 Chairman, the Precinct Chairman may designate in writing a temporary Chairman to act in his
22 place and stead. If there is no functioning Precinct Chairman or Vice-Chairman, the County
23 Chairman shall designate in writing a temporary Chairman who meets the qualifications
24 prescribed for elected county party leadership in Article VIII Section 5.
25

26 B. The next order of business shall be the resolution of any challenge to a
27 citizen's right to vote and participate in the Precinct Convention. Any bona fide Republican
28 citizen who is duly registered to vote in, and resides in, the Precinct shall be entitled to vote and
29 participate in the Precinct Convention. Any bona fide Republican citizen whose loyalty to the
30 Republican Party is questioned may be challenged by any other bona fide Republican citizen
31 present and qualified to participate. The challenged citizen shall be entitled to vote and
32 participate in the Convention upon his public and written affirmation of his allegiance to the
33 Republican Party on the form duly furnished by the County Chairman or the Contest and
34 Credentials Committee as set forth on Exhibit A attached hereto. Notwithstanding the
35 foregoing, no person who is then holding office as a Democrat shall be allowed to vote and
36 participate in a Precinct or County Party Convention. If a citizen's residence or registration to
37 vote in the Precinct is challenged, he shall vote on a provisional paper ballot which shall be
38 counted, marked and set aside. If such citizen is determined not to be duly registered to vote in
39 said Precinct, and not to be a resident thereof, his vote and participation shall be null and void.
40 All prospective delegate shall present a valid photo I.D., and the county Contest and Credentials
41 committee shall verify the delegates registered voter status.
42

43 C. The next order of business shall be that the Chairman of the meeting shall
44 designate two (2) Clerks, who shall assist in distributing, collecting and counting ballots, and
45 shall perform such other tasks as are assigned by the Chairman of the meeting.
46

1 D. The next order of business shall be the election of a new Precinct
2 Chairman and other Officers as mentioned above. Precinct Officers shall meet the requirements
3 set forth for elected county party leadership in Article VIII Section 4, and be elected by majority
4 vote of the qualified citizens present and voting. Runoffs shall be held, if necessary to determine
5 a majority. The newly elected Precinct Chairman shall upon his election assume the chair and
6 preside at the remainder of the Precinct Convention.
7

8 E. The next order of business shall be the election of the Precinct's Delegates
9 to the Delegated County Convention.
10

11 1. The total Republican vote in the last Presidential general election
12 shall be the basis on which shall be determined the number of Delegates to be elected. In
13 Counties having populations of more than 100,000 in the last U. S. Census, the Precinct shall be
14 entitled to a minimum of one (1) Delegate for each 200 Republican votes cast for the Republican
15 Presidential nominee, or majority thereof, in that Precinct. Fractional Delegates shall not be
16 permitted. In Counties having populations of fewer than 100,000 in the last U.S. Census, the
17 Precinct shall be entitled to a minimum of one (1) Delegate for each 100 Republican votes cast
18 for the Republican Presidential nominee, or majority thereof, in that Precinct.
19

20 2. If Early Voting in the Presidential Election was conducted in such
21 a manner that it is not possible to ascertain the Republican Presidential vote from Early Voting in
22 each Precinct, then the total Republican Presidential votes cast during Early Voting shall be
23 divided pro rata among the Precincts. Thus, if 5% of the Republican Presidential vote on
24 Election Day was cast in a Precinct, then that Precinct shall be apportioned 5% of the Republican
25 Presidential votes during early voting. In that manner, the total number of Republican
26 Presidential votes shall be determined for each Precinct.
27

28 3. Each qualified citizen present and participating in the Precinct
29 Convention shall be entitled to vote for the number of Delegates to which such Precinct is
30 entitled. No proxies shall be permitted.
31

32 4. The floor shall be opened for nominations for Delegates. Delegate
33 nominees must be present to accept the nomination or, if they cannot be present, have submitted
34 a written letter of intent to attend the delegated convention and accept a delegate nomination at
35 that precinct convention. The total vote for each candidate for Delegate shall be recorded.
36 Delegates in the number allotted to such Precinct shall be elected in order of the highest total
37 vote received. In case of a tie vote, all names involved in the tie shall be used in consecutive
38 Delegate positions. A runoff shall be used if necessary to fill the last Delegate position. All
39 Delegates must be bona fide Republicans duly registered to vote in, and residing in, the Precinct
40 at the time of the Precinct Convention. Alternate Delegates shall also be elected, in a number up
41 to the number of Delegates elected. Candidates for Delegate who did not receive sufficient votes
42 to be elected Delegate shall become Alternates, in descending order of the number of votes cast
43 for each person. In case of a tie, the method described herein above shall be used for electing
44 Alternates. Any remaining Alternate Delegate positions which cannot be filled by election, shall
45 be filled by appointment by the Precinct Chairman.
46

1 F. The Precinct Convention shall then proceed to such other business as may
2 be appropriate.
3

4 Section 3. If any Precinct fails to hold a Precinct Convention, or fails to elect
5 Delegates at such Convention, then promptly after the Delegated County Convention, the newly
6 elected County Chairman shall appoint a Precinct Chairman and other Precinct Officers and
7 committee members from qualified Republicans who meet the requirements for county party
8 leadership set forth in Article VIII Section 5 and reside and are registered to vote in such
9 Precinct, to serve until the next County Reorganization. The County Chairman shall not,
10 however, appoint Delegates to the County Convention.
11

12 Section 4. Within three (3) business days after the Precinct Convention, the newly
13 elected Precinct Chairman shall certify the results of the election of Precinct Delegates to the
14 County Chairman or the Chairman of the Contest and Credentials Committee, on forms
15 prescribed and furnished by the Contest and Credentials Committee. The newly elected Precinct
16 Chairman shall also furnish a list of the names and addresses of the citizens who voted and
17 participated in the Precinct Convention. The names and addresses of Delegates to the County
18 Convention shall be available to the public. The ballots cast in the Precinct Convention shall be
19 preserved by the Precinct Chairman until after the Delegated County Convention. If the results
20 of the election are timely contested, or the certification is rejected by the Contest and Credentials
21 Committee, the ballots shall be promptly delivered to the Chairman of that Committee, to be
22 preserved until any possible contest has been finally resolved, or the time for filing any further
23 contest has expired.
24

25 Section 5. Within seven (7) calendar days after the Precinct Conventions, the Contest
26 and Credentials Committee shall meet and review all certifications made pursuant to Section 4
27 above. If it rejects any certification, the Chairman of the Committee shall, within twenty-four
28 (24) hours thereafter, notify in writing any Delegate whose credentials have been rejected,
29 specifying the time and place at which any contest of such rejection shall be heard.
30

31 Section 6. If there is a contest of any election at a Precinct Convention, the Contest
32 and Credentials Committee shall hear and resolve the same. Any citizen participating in any
33 Precinct Convention may contest the results by filing with the Chairman of the Contest and
34 Credentials Committee at the address specified in the newspaper advertisement of the Precinct
35 Conventions, a written notice of contest stating the specific legal and factual grounds therefor.
36 Such notice of contest shall be filed within five (5) business days after the Precinct Convention.
37 Such notice may be submitted electronically to the email address provided in the Notice of
38 Precinct Conventions. At the meeting held pursuant to the foregoing Section, the Contest and
39 Credentials Committee shall fix the time and place for hearing all contests filed pursuant to this
40 Section; and the Chairman shall notify the contestants and the contested Delegates of the time
41 and place for hearing such contests. Contestants may be represented by counsel at such contest
42 hearings. The Committee or any contestant may cause a record to be made of such hearing. All
43 contests shall be heard and decided at least twenty-four (24) hours before the Delegated County
44 Convention. The determination of the Contest and Credentials Committee may be appealed to
45 the County Convention as a whole in the manner provided elsewhere herein. There shall be no
46 appeals to the Convention unless filed in writing to the Contest and Credentials Committee as set

1 forth above. Any contests or appeals of rejected certifications or of the results of the Precinct
2 Convention may be dismissed and not appealed to the County Convention as a whole if the
3 dismissal is based on grounds clearly laid out in the above rules.
4

5 **Part III--County Conventions**

6

7 Section 1. At the time, date and place specified, the County Convention shall meet to
8 reorganize the County Party. Whether said Convention is a County Delegated Convention or a
9 Mass Convention shall be determined on the basis described in Part I, Sections 2 and 3 above.
10

11 Section 2. The order of business at the County Convention shall be as follows:
12

13 A. The County Chairman shall convene the Convention. If he is unable to be
14 present, the County Vice-Chairman, if any, shall preside. If there is no Vice-Chairman, the
15 County Chairman may designate in writing a temporary Chairman, who meets the qualifications
16 prescribed for elected county party leadership in Article VIII Section 5, to act in his place and
17 stead. If there is no functioning County Chairman or Vice Chairman, the State Chairman may
18 designate in writing a temporary Chairman. The County Chairman may also appoint a
19 Convention Chair to preside of the convention per the approval of the State Chairman.
20

21 B. The following procedures shall only apply to Delegated County
22 Conventions:
23

24 1. Only Delegates (including Alternates, if applicable) certified by
25 the Contest and Credentials Committee shall be allowed on the floor of the Convention.
26

27 2. The report of the Contest and Credentials Committee shall be read,
28 and the Secretary shall call the roll of Precincts to determine if a quorum is present. The
29 presence of Delegates representing one-third (1/3) of the Precincts in the County shall constitute
30 a quorum.
31

32 3. The Convention shall then proceed to hear and determine any
33 appeals from actions of the Contest and Credentials Committee. Contestants shall be entitled to
34 appear on the floor and present their appeals. The contests shall be heard in the numbered order
35 of Precincts, and, within Precincts, in alphabetical order. Each contest shall be determined by a
36 majority vote of the Delegates voting in the manner heretofore prescribed. The certified
37 Delegates whose seats are in question shall not be entitled to vote, but all other Delegates,
38 including those whose seats may be the subject of a later contest, may vote on such contest. If
39 any contesting Delegate is seated by the Convention, such Delegate shall immediately take his
40 place in the Convention, and shall be entitled to full participation thereafter.
41

42 4. On any divided vote, a roll call may be requested by any Delegate.
43 The roll call shall be called by Precinct in numerical order and, within Precincts, in alphabetical
44 order. Each Precinct shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each Delegate (including Alternates,
45 where applicable) present and voting. Use of the unit rule shall not be permitted.
46

1 C. The following procedures shall apply to Mass Conventions: The next
2 order of business shall be the resolution of any challenge to a citizen's right to vote and
3 participate in the Mass Convention. Any bona fide Republican citizen who is duly registered to
4 vote in, and resides in, the County shall be entitled to vote and participate in the County Mass
5 Convention. Any bona fide Republican citizen whose loyalty to the Republican Party is
6 questioned may be challenged by any other bona fide Republican citizen present and qualified to
7 participate. The challenged citizen shall be entitled to vote and participate in the Convention
8 upon his public and written affirmation of his allegiance to the Republican Party on the form
9 duly furnished by the County Chairman or the Contest and Credentials Committee as set forth on
10 Exhibit A attached hereto. If a citizen's residence or registration to vote in the County is
11 challenged, he shall vote on a provisional paper ballot which shall be counted, marked and set
12 aside. If such citizen is determined not to be duly registered to vote in said County, and not to
13 be a resident thereof, his vote and participation shall be null and void.

14
15 D. The next order of business shall be the election of a new County
16 Chairman, which shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast. There shall be a run-off
17 election between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes, if necessary. The
18 newly elected County Chairman shall upon election assume the chair and preside over the
19 remainder of the Convention. The newly elected chair may allow the past chair or the appointed
20 convention chair to preside of the rest of the reorganization if they so desire.

21
22 E. The meeting shall then proceed to the election of other Officers of the
23 County Party, including a Vice-Chairman of the opposite sex from the Chairman, a Secretary, a
24 Treasurer, a Vice-Treasurer, and such other Officers as approved in the County's Bylaws (See
25 Article VIII, Section 7), subject to the Tennessee Republican Party Bylaws and Rules.

26
27 F. At least two (2) Clerks appointed by the Chairman of the Contest and
28 Credentials Committee shall tally the votes for all officer elections immediately following each
29 ballot and perform such other functions as are assigned by the Chairman of the meeting. The
30 Contest and Credentials Committee shall oversee the voting.

31
32 G. The County Convention shall then proceed to such other business as may
33 have been included in the Call of the meeting, and such other business as it deems appropriate.

34
35 H. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws and Rules, or the duly
36 approved County Party Bylaws or Rules, the County Convention shall be conducted in
37 compliance with Robert's Newly Revised Rules of Order.

38
39 **Part IV--Certification of CEC**

40
41 Section 1. Within ten (10) days following certification of the results of the County
42 Reorganization, the County Chairman shall ensure the Officers are sworn to a commitment to
43 perform the duties of their position to the best of their ability, as defined in the TPR Bylaws.
44 This ceremony can be conducted by any Republican county constitutional officer, by an SEC
45 member representing that Senatorial District, by the State Party Chairman or his designee. In
46 addition, the County chairman shall confirm, under oath, a pledge to uphold and enforce all

1 Bylaws of the TRP.
2

3 Section 2. Within ten (10) calendar days after the County Party reorganization,
4 whether by Precinct Delegated Convention or Mass Convention, the newly elected County
5 Chairman and Secretary shall certify in writing to the State Chairman the following:
6

7 A. The names and addresses of all members of the newly elected CEC;
8

9 B. The names and addresses of the newly elected Officers of the County
10 Republican Party;
11

12 C. The names and addresses of the newly-elected Precinct (or Council
13 District) Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the County Republican Party; and
14

15 D. The names and addresses of all Delegates participating in a Precinct
16 Delegated Convention, or of all persons participating in a Mass Convention, whichever is
17 applicable.
18

19 **RULE E**
20 **CONTESTS OF RESULTS OF COUNTY REORGANIZATIONS**
21

22 Section 1. If any qualified Republican seeking to be elected to County Party office,
23 and in attendance at the County Convention, should desire to contest the results of the elections
24 at such Convention, a contest is deemed to exist.
25

26 Section 2. A contestant shall file a Notice of Contest with the State Chairman within
27 five (5) calendar days after the County Convention, and shall simultaneously serve a copy of
28 such Notice on the County Chairman, other County Officers, and all contestees affected by such
29 contest. Such Notice of Contest shall state with particularity the factual and legal basis for such
30 contest. If a contest is immediately deemed to lack grounds for contest, then the State Chairman
31 may dismiss the contest and inform all parties involved.
32

33 Section 3. Within ten (10) calendar days thereafter, the contestant shall file with the
34 State Chairman a memorandum or brief supporting the contest. A copy of such memorandum or
35 brief shall be served on the same parties listed in Section 2 above, and on their counsel, if any
36 have appeared. Within seven (7) calendar days thereafter, the contestee or contestees may file
37 with the State Chairman a response and any supporting memorandum or brief that they deem
38 appropriate; and shall serve a copy thereof on the parties listed in Section 2 above and on their
39 counsel, if any. Such memoranda or briefs shall include any supporting affidavits,
40 correspondence or other documents to be relied upon as evidence.
41

42 Section 4. The State Chairman shall call a meeting of the SEC, to take place after the
43 expiration of the periods set forth in Sections 2 and 3 above, to consider such contest. With the
44 notice of such meeting, the State Chairman shall mail to all members and Officers of the SEC
45 copies of the Notice of Contest, Response(s), and supporting memoranda or briefs.
46

1 Section 5. The State Chairman may, in his discretion, appoint a special committee
2 before such meeting, to review the Notice of Contest, Response(s), and supporting memoranda
3 or briefs. Such committee may also hear any further testimony or statements which the
4 contestants might desire to submit. Such committee shall make a recommendation to the SEC as
5 to the disposition of the contest. The SEC, in its discretion, may hear and consider other matters
6 besides the recommendation of the special committee. If a special committee is not appointed,
7 the SEC shall hear the testimony or statements of the contestants. In either event, each
8 contestant shall be given equal opportunity to present his position on the issue. The contesting
9 party shall have the privilege of opening and closing. The SEC shall have full power to adopt
10 other rules and procedures as may be appropriate for and pertinent to the hearing. Upon
11 completion of the hearing, the SEC shall take such action as it may deem fit in the disposition of
12 said contest.
13

14 Section 6. While a contest exists, all checks or monies disbursed out of County funds
15 must be approved by the State Chairman. The same shall apply for all regularly scheduled
16 meetings of the County Party.
17

18 **RULE F**
19 **REMOVAL OF COUNTY OFFICERS**
20

21 Section 1. A County Party Chairman, shall automatically cease to hold office, and a
22 vacancy shall exist, in the event of change of his place of voter registration outside the County
23 which he serves; or the County Party Chairman may be removed for "cause" by action of the
24 State Chairman and the SEC in a manner similar to that described in Article III, Section 4 of
25 these Bylaws and Rules, upon written request signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the CEC.
26

27 Section 2. The rules for removal of any CEC Member except the County Chairman,
28 shall be determined by the County Party Bylaws. In the event that rules for removal of CEC
29 Members are not described in County Bylaws, the following State Party rules shall apply.
30

31 Section 3. A member shall be automatically removed for having been physically
32 absent from three (3) consecutive committee meetings. By a two-thirds (2/3) vote, the CEC may
33 move for the removal for cause of any member of the CEC, excluding the Chairman. This action
34 shall be filed with the State Chairman and signed by the necessary number of members of the
35 CEC.
36

37 Section 4. The action for removal for a CEC Member, other than the Chairman, shall
38 specify the grounds, and include a statement of the facts, and any documentation in support
39 thereof, and shall designate a time and place with fifteen (15) days notice for a full hearing of the
40 action and response, such hearing to be conducted by the County Chairman. A copy of such
41 shall be served on the members of the CEC affected by such action, and their counsel, if any.
42

43 Section 5. Within ten (10) calendar days thereafter, the affected member may file
44 with the County Chairman a response and supporting brief and documentation. A copy of the
45 same shall be served on those requesting the removal from office, and their counsel, if any.
46

1 Section 6. Three-fourths (3/4) of the entire CEC shall be required to be present in
2 order to constitute a quorum at such special meeting.

3
4 Section 7. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the CEC present and voting at such meeting
5 shall be required for removal.

6
7 Section 8. Any member of the CEC, including the Chairman, may be removed for
8 “cause” by a majority vote of the SEC at any meeting in which two-thirds (2/3) of the Committee
9 is present.

10
11 Section 9. If a member of the CEC is removed, his successors shall be elected in the
12 same manner and by the same procedures specified for the filling of a vacancy of an officer by
13 the CEC under the provisions of Article VIII, Section 5 and Article VIII, Section 6.

14
15 **RULE G**
16 **LOCAL CANDIDATE NOMINATIONS**

17
18 Section 1. The purpose of this Rule is to authorize and provide additional methods,
19 other than by Party primary, for the nomination of Republican candidates for any office in which
20 only the voters within a single County (or portion thereof) are entitled to vote.

21
22 Section 2. The CEC for each County in the state is hereby authorized to decide
23 whether or not Republican candidates for local or County offices shall be nominated and, if so,
24 whether they shall be nominated by a Party primary or by a County Convention. Such decision
25 shall be made at a meeting of the CEC duly called for such purpose. Such meeting shall be held
26 more than fifteen (15) days before the candidate qualifying deadline as provided in TCA Section
27 2-5-101, as it may be amended from time to time. Such meeting may be called either by the
28 County Chairman or by a majority of the members of the CEC, by giving each member seven (7)
29 days' prior written notice of the date, time, place (within the County) and purpose thereof.

30
31 Section 3. In Counties having a population of at least 100,000 people according to
32 the latest U. S. Census, a County Convention shall be a Delegated County Convention. In
33 Counties having a population under 100,000 people according to the latest U. S. Census, a
34 County Convention may be either a Delegated County convention or a Mass Convention.

35
36 Section 4. If the CEC decides to nominate Republican candidates by either of the
37 Convention methods, a time, date and place for holding such Convention shall be fixed; provided
38 that the date of such Convention shall be before the first Thursday in May before the August
39 election. The pertinent provisions of Rules E and F above shall govern the procedures for
40 advertising and giving notice of such Convention, the selection of Delegates, the conduct of the
41 Convention, the certification of nominees, contests, etc.

42
43 Section 5. In offices with districts separated within the county, only delegates from
44 within those districts may nominate candidates for offices in said district.

45
46 **RULE H**

JUDICIAL COMMITTEES

1
2
3 Section 1. For each Judicial District lying in more than one County or part of a
4 County, this Rule shall govern the selection of candidates for Chancellors, Circuit Judges,
5 District Attorney General and Public Defender.
6

7 Section 2. If any CEC within a Judicial District chooses to select candidates for said
8 office to run as Republicans, it is the responsibility of the CEC to notify the State Party of their
9 intention and request that a Judicial Committee be formed. In the event that no County Party
10 contacts the State Party, the Chairman of the State Party may also call for the formation of the
11 Committee.
12

13 A. The State Chairman may appoint a temporary Judicial Committee
14 Chairman to be responsible for notification to all Counties or partial Counties within the Judicial
15 District.
16

17 B. The Judicial Committee member(s) from each County or portion of a
18 County shall be appointed by the CEC in each respective County lying wholly or partly in the
19 Judicial District in question.
20

21 C. Each CEC shall appoint two persons to the Judicial Committee, which
22 shall not exceed 15 members. In the event the Committee would exceed 15 members, each
23 County or portion of a County in the Judicial District, starting with the smallest population, in
24 ascending order, shall have only one member. Should one or more County Parties within a
25 Judicial District not have a recognized County Party, the State Party shall act on behalf of the
26 respective County or Counties.
27

28 D. The Committee shall be constituted at a time sufficiently in advance of
29 deadlines for candidates to qualify.
30

31 E. The Judicial Committee may meet by teleconference or in person, but the
32 Chair of the Judicial Committee must give at least three (3) days notice to each County or part of
33 a County lying within the Judicial District.
34

35 Section 3. The Judicial Committee shall decide by a majority vote whether the
36 Republican nominee for each office within the Judicial District will be selected by Primary or
37 Delegated Convention.
38

39 A. If the Judicial Committee decides to hold a Delegated Convention they
40 shall publish notice in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in each of the Counties
41 as a whole or part, within the Judicial District at least ten (10) days prior to the qualifying
42 deadline.
43

B. If the Judicial Committee decides that positions will be nominated by a

1 Primary, each CEC within the Judicial District must submit a written letter to their County
2 Election Commission and provide a copy of the letter to the Judicial Committee Chair and State
3 Party prior to the deadline defined in TCA Section 2-13-203 (d).
4

5 1. Once the Judicial Committee decides that the open positions within
6 the Judicial District will be nominated by primary, all CEC, even if they voted against the
7 primary, must file the appropriate letter with the respective County Election Commission. The
8 State Party will act on behalf of any County that does not have a County Party and file the
9 appropriate notice.
10

11 2. In such an event that a position within a Judicial District is to be
12 filled in a year when no spring primary will take place and a County or part of a County lying
13 within a Judicial District will not be holding a primary for any other position, it will be left to the
14 discretion of the respective CEC whether to call for the Primary. If the CEC chooses to not call
15 for the Primary, but the Judicial Committee has decided on nominating by means of a primary,
16 the CEC may not hold a Delegated Convention.
17

18 C. If the Judicial Committee decides that positions will be nominated by
19 Delegated Convention, the convention shall be held in a manner provided for in Rule E and
20 contests shall be determined in a manner provided for in Rule F.
21

22 1. Each County or portion thereof shall be entitled to one (1) vote for
23 each 100 votes cast for the Republican Presidential candidate in the most recent Presidential
24 election prior to the date of said Delegated Convention.
25

26 2. The Chairman of the Judicial Committee shall certify the nominee
27 to the Coordinator of Elections as is required by TCA Section 2-13-203, as may be amended
28 from time to time, and to the State Party. The Committee shall take such other actions as may be
29 required by state or federal law, rule or regulation.
30

31 D. If the Judicial Committee decides that it shall hold neither a Primary nor
32 Delegated Convention, an individual CEC can opt to call for the open positions in the Judicial
33 District to appear on the Primary ballot in their County. In such an event, the CEC must notify
34 their County Election Commission and the State Party as is required in TCA Section 2-13-
35 203(d).
36

37 Section 4. The Judicial Committees shall carry out their duties in such a manner as
38 to be neutral, fair and objective and to give all qualified persons a fair opportunity to seek the
39 office to be filled.
40

41 **RULE I**
42 **BREAKING TIE VOTES IN CONTESTED REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

1 This Rule J is adopted pursuant to TCA § 2-8-114, as it may be amended from time to
2 time. This Rule is intended to govern the procedure for casting the deciding vote in any
3 Republican primary election in which the vote, as certified by the County Election Commission
4 under TCA § 2-8-101, et seq., is a tie between or among two or more Republican candidates.
5

6 Section 1. In case of a tie vote between or among two or more Republican candidates
7 in a primary election, the SEC, in its capacity as the State Primary Board, shall cast the deciding
8 vote. The State Primary Board shall hold a meeting within five (5) days after the tie vote has
9 been officially certified by the Coordinator of Elections under TCA § 2-8-113; provided,
10 however, that the State Primary Board shall hold its meeting and cast the deciding vote no later
11 than seven (7) days before the qualifying deadline, even if the Coordinator of Elections has not
12 officially certified the vote by that date. If it appears that there is a tie vote, based upon the
13 certification of the election results by the County Election Commission under TCA § 2-8-101, et
14 seq., then the State Chairman or his appointee may prepare for and give notice of the holding of a
15 State Primary Board meeting to take place as soon as the tie vote has been certified by the
16 Coordinator of Elections, or by seven (7) days before the qualifying deadline. The meeting of
17 the State Primary Board shall be permitted to take place telephonically. If the meeting is
18 telephonic, a roll call vote shall be taken. If a determination is made that ballots are to be cast
19 under governing rules of procedure, telecopied ballots shall be permitted, so long as they are
20 received by the State Chairman or his delegate within one (1) calendar day after the meeting, but
21 if a ballot is not received, the roll call vote cast by the State Primary Board member in question
22 shall be counted as his vote. The quorum for such meeting shall be the same as the quorum for a
23 meeting of the SEC, and the winning candidate shall be chosen by a majority vote of those
24 present at the meeting, in person or telephonically. In case of a tie vote, the State Chairman shall
25 cast the deciding vote. The State Primary Board's decision shall be final.
26

27 Section 2. If the tie vote occurs in a Republican primary election within a single
28 county, the deciding vote shall be cast by the County Primary Board of that county, as the
29 delegate of the State Primary Board. The County Primary Board shall conduct an actual (not a
30 telephonic) meeting, and the votes of three (3) County Primary Board members shall be
31 necessary in order to determine the winning candidate. Such meeting shall be held within five
32 (5) days after the Coordinator of Elections has certified the results of the election as provided in
33 TCA 2-8-113; provided, however, that the County Primary Board shall hold its meeting and cast
34 the deciding vote no later than seven (7) days before the qualifying deadline, even if the
35 Coordinator of Elections has not officially certified the vote by that date. If it appears that there
36 is a tie vote, based upon the certification of the election results by the County Election
37 Commission under TCA 2-8-101, et seq., then the County Primary Board may prepare for and
38 give notice of the holding of a County Primary Board meeting to take place as soon as the tie
39 vote has been certified by the Coordinator of Elections. The County Primary Board shall notify
40 the State Chairman of its decision, or the fact that it did not reach a decision, immediately after
41 the conclusion of its meeting. Any candidate shall be permitted to appeal the decision of the
42 County Primary Board, to the State Chairman. Notice of such appeal shall be communicated to
43 the County Primary Board, the other candidate(s) involved, and the State Chairman, no later than
44 48 hours after the decision of the County Primary Board; and such communication shall be by
45 telecopy, electronic mail, or other means of instantaneous communication. The candidate so
46 appealing shall send all documents which he wishes to bring to the attention of the State

1 Chairman in such a manner that they are received by the State Chairman within 24 hours after
2 the notice of appeal is given. Any other candidate shall send any additional documents in such a
3 manner that they are received by the State Chairman within 24 hours thereafter. The State
4 Chairman, as the delegate of the State Primary Board, shall determine such appeal, and the
5 winner of the primary election. Additionally, if the County Primary Board is unable or refuses to
6 meet, or to decide the winner of the primary election, the State Chairman shall decide the winner
7 of the primary election. If such an appeal is made to the State Chairman, or if the State
8 Chairman decides the winner due to the County Primary Board's inability or refusal to do so, his
9 decision shall be final.

10
11 Section 3. Proxies shall not be permitted at the meeting of the State Primary Board or
12 the County Primary Board under this Rule J.
13

14 Section 4. If it appears that any primary election has resulted in a tie vote, the County
15 Party, the candidate(s), or other interested persons shall so notify the State Chairman or his
16 appointee, immediately, by telephone, telecopy, or other means of instant communication. The
17 State Chairman or his appointee shall be kept fully informed of all developments with respect to
18 the situation. The State Chairman or his appointee shall notify and instruct the State Primary
19 Board, the County Primary Board, the candidate(s) involved, and any other person whom the
20 State Chairman directs, as to the procedures to be followed in order for the State Primary Board,
21 the County Primary Board, or the State Chairman to carry out its or his duties, including setting
22 times by which interested parties must furnish documents that they wish to be considered by
23 either the State Primary Board or the Chairman. The determinations to be made and the deciding
24 votes to be cast under this Rule, by the State Primary Board, the County Primary Board, or the
25 State Chairman, shall be made and cast in the manner provided herein, based upon the
26 information (written and/or oral) made available to it or to him under the existing circumstances,
27 including the time constraints under which it or he must operate. Meetings shall be conducted
28 according to the Tennessee Republican Party Bylaws insofar as is reasonably practicable (except
29 for the informality of notice of meetings necessitated by this Rule J) and parliamentary
30 procedure; but the meetings are not judicial proceedings, and rules of civil procedure, rules of
31 evidence, and other legal procedures shall not be applicable.
32

33 Section 5. Notwithstanding any provision of this Rule J, all action necessary to
34 determine the winner of the primary election shall be taken and completed in time to enable the
35 State Primary Board, or the State Chairman as its delegate, to certify the results to the
36 Coordinator of Elections in a timely manner, under the governing statutes.
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38 10/08/93

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40 Revised 03/19/94

41 Finalized 08/25/94

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43 Revised 09/95

44 Revised 12/06/97

45 Revised 05/98
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- 1 New Revision Drafts May 29, 2001
- 2 June 4, 2001
- 3 August 7, 2001
- 4 September 26, 2001
- 5 October 22, 2001
- 6 October 30, 2001
- 7 February 24, 2002
- 8 Amended April 6, 2002 by State Executive Committee
- 9 Amended April 9, 2002 by State Executive Committee
- 10 Amended December 4, 2010 by State Executive Committee
- 11 Amended April 16, 2011 by vote of State Executive Committee Members.
- 12 Amended December 3, 2011 by vote of the State Executive Committee Members
- 13 Amended March 31, 2012 by vote of the State Executive Committee Members
- 14 Amended February 9, 2013 by vote of the State Executive Committee Members
- 15 Amended December 6, 2013 by vote of the State Executive Committee Members
- 16 Amended July 25, 2015 by vote of the State Executive Committee Members
- 17 Amended August 13, 2016 by vote of the State Executive Committee Members
- 18 Amended August 26, 2017 by vote of the State Executive Committee Members