

Monmouth County Republican Committee By-Laws

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of this body shall be known as “The Monmouth County Republican Committee” (hereinafter referred to as “MCRC”).

ARTICLE II – Objectives

The objectives of the MCRC shall be as follows:

1. To promote and maintain good government based upon principles and ideals of the Republican Party.
2. To maintain liaison with the New Jersey Republican State Committee, local Republican Committees, Republican members of the State Legislature who represent Monmouth County (or parts of the County) and other Republican office holders at County, State and National levels of government.
3. To recruit qualified candidates to run for public office as Republicans.
4. To assist in electing and re-electing qualified Republican candidates.
5. To promote sound organization of the Republican Party at County and Municipal levels within the County.
6. To fulfill obligations imposed by law upon County Committees, including the selection of nominees and candidates for public office in certain circumstances where vacancies are declared.
7. To support the concept of open Conventions in order to encourage all qualified individuals to seek public office.

ARTICLE III – Members

Section 1. Voting Members –

(a) All Municipal Republican Committee members in Monmouth County who are duly elected or duly appointed in accordance with applicable law shall automatically be members of MCRC and shall be eligible to vote on any matter that comes before MCRC except as provided herein (hereinafter referred to as “Voting Members”).

(b) MCRC shall be composed of two registered Republicans from each voting district in the County, duly elected at the primary election, every other year, or subsequently appointed and elected at the reorganization of the Municipal Committee at a duly authorized meeting as required by N.J.S.A.19:5-2, before the reorganization meeting of the MCRC. Each Voting Member of the MCRC shall promote the principals, policies, goals and objectives of the MCRC.

(c) All Voting Members of the MCRC shall reside in the election district which they represent. When a Voting Member ceases to be a resident of the district or unit from which elected, a vacancy on the county committee shall exist.

(d) The term of all Voting Members elected in the primary election shall be for two (2) years. The terms of all Voting Members appointed by the Municipal Committee shall be for the remainder of the unexpired two (2) year term in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:5-3.

(e) A vacancy in any seat held by a Voting Member caused by death, resignation, departure from the voting district, failure to elect or otherwise shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Municipal Committee of the municipality for which the vacancy occurred, if there is such a committee. If there is no Municipal Committee in place, the vacancy shall be filled by the County Chair.

Section 2. – Non-Voting Members. Republican State Legislators who reside in Monmouth County, State Committeeman and Committeewoman elected from Monmouth County, Chairs of the Municipal Republican Committees in this County who are not Voting Members and elected Countywide officeholders shall be non-voting members of MCRC (hereinafter referred to as “Non-Voting Members”). Non-Voting Members shall have the right to attend MCRC meetings and conventions.

ARTICLE IV – Officers

Section 1. – The Officers of the MCRC shall consist of the County Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer, all of whom must be registered Republicans residing in Monmouth County.

Section 2. Chair - The County Chair shall be elected for a two-year term at the annual meeting called in accordance with Title 19. In the event a vacancy occurs in the position of County Chair, a meeting of the County Committee shall be held within forty-five (45) days of said vacancy to fill the unexpired term. At any election where there is more than one candidate for the office of Chair, voting machines shall be used if available.

The County Chair shall preside at all meetings and shall be responsible for the direction of the MCRC. The County Chair may appoint an Executive Director and such other committees as he or she may, from time to time, deem necessary. In addition to the rights and duties imposed by law, the County Chair shall exercise and discharge those rights and duties conferred by the By-Laws and by resolutions adopted in conformance therewith. In the absence or inability of the County Chair to serve, a Vice Chair shall preside at all meetings of the MCRC and shall exercise all the powers and duties of the County Chair.

Section 3. Vice Chairs - The County Chair shall appoint one or multiple Vice Chairs, which shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair concurrently with the term of the Chair. Treasurer and Secretary of MCRC, which Officers shall serve at his/her pleasure.

Section 4. Treasurer – The County Chair shall name a campaign treasurer, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair concurrently with the term of the Chair. The Treasurer shall have custody of all committee funds and shall maintain regular accounts thereof and shall report on the condition of accounts at each committee meeting and at any additional time requested to do so by the County

Chair. Committee Funds are to be deposited in a bank designated by the County Chair. Funds are to be withdrawn only by checks signed by the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall timely file with the Election Law Enforcement Commission such reports that may be required by the “New Jersey Campaign Contribution and Expenditures Reporting Act”, N.J.S.A.19:44A-1 et seq. The Treasurer’s report shall be audited by a qualified person or persons designated by the County Chair. Such audit shall be conducted during the month preceding the annual meeting month and the results shall be reported at the annual convention. An audit must precede any change in the office of the Treasurer.

Section 5. Secretary - The County Chair shall designate a Secretary, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair concurrently with the term of the Chair. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping all meeting minutes, maintaining a list of members, sending notices of meetings and maintaining all records of MCRC.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1 – Meetings. The reorganization meeting of MCRC shall be on a date selected by the Chair within the timeframe established by Title 19. In the event the annual meeting falls on a legal holiday, said meeting shall be held on the day following, at an hour and place to be designated in a written notice to be mailed by the County Chair of the outgoing MCRC to each member elect. The County Chair may call such other meetings as he or she deems appropriate for conducting business of MCRC.

Section 2 – Quorum - At each meeting of the MCRC, a quorum of twenty-five (25%) percent of Voting Members shall constitute a quorum. Only Voting Members who are present at a duly constituted meeting shall be entitled to raise any questions posing examinations of resolutions, except a resolution to alter, amend or revise the By-Laws.

Section 3 – Notice – The Secretary shall provide all Members with written notice of all meetings of MCRC.

Article VI – Election of County Chair & Nominating Conventions

Section 1. Election of County Chair – The County Chair shall be elected at the reorganization meeting of MCRC. Letters of intent to run for the office of County Chair must be received by MCRC not less than 5:00 pm on the fourteenth (14) day prior to the date of the reorganization meeting.

Section 2. Voting – In any election where there are more than two (2) candidates for the same position, the winner must receive more than fifty (50%) percent of the votes cast for that office. If none of the candidates receive more than fifty (50%) percent of the votes for the first ballot, another ballot shall be taken between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes from the first ballot. Each candidate nominated may appoint one (1) challenger for each voting machine.

Section 3. Proxy Votes - Any Voting Member who cannot attend a meeting where a vote is to be held due to religious observances (whether it be any day of the week) may designate a proxy to vote in their place by designating their proxy in writing prior to the opening of the meeting at which the vote is to be held.

Section 4. Balloting – No nominations from the floor or write in votes shall be accepted for any election.

Section 5. Nominating Conventions –

(a) Purpose of Convention - In the event that there are any positions to be filled for an elected public office at the County, State or Federal levels which include all or part of Monmouth County, a Nominating Convention shall be held at a place and time designated by the County Chair.

(b) Letter of Intent - Any candidate seeking the MCRC nomination for public office shall submit a letter of intent to the County Chair not less than 5:00 pm on the fourteenth (14) day prior to the date set by the Chair for the Nominating Convention containing the requisite number of signatures of Voting Members. Voting Members may only execute one endorsement for each office up for election. The minimum signature requirements are as set forth below:

(1) Open Seats - When running for a seat with no Republican incumbent (hereinafter referred to as an "Incumbent"), or a vacant seat, endorsements from ten (10) Voting Members must be attached to a letter of intent. No more than half of the endorsements required when running for an open seat can be from one municipality;

(2) Countywide Office – When running for Countywide office as an Incumbent, endorsements from twenty-five (25) Voting Members must be attached to a letter of intent. No more than half of the County Committee endorsements required when running for a County seat as an incumbent can be from one municipality. When challenging an Incumbent, endorsements from forty (40) Voting Members must be attached to a letter of intent. No more than one-third of the County Committee endorsements required when challenging an Incumbent can be from one municipality.

(3) Legislative Office - When running as an Incumbent member of the New Jersey Legislature, endorsements from ten (10) Voting Members residing in that legislative district must be attached to a letter of intent. No more than half of the County Committee endorsements required when running as an Incumbent can be from one municipality. When challenging an Incumbent, endorsements from twenty-five (25) Voting Members residing in that legislative district must be attached to a letter of intent. No more than half of the County Committee endorsements required when challenging an Incumbent can be from one municipality. In a redistricting year, only those Voting Members from those voting districts included in the newly formed legislative districts are eligible to endorse a candidate for legislative office.

(4) Statewide or Federal Office - When running for Statewide or Federal office as an Incumbent, endorsements from twenty-five (25) Voting Members must be attached to a letter of intent. No more than half of the County Committee endorsements required when running for Statewide or Federal office as an incumbent can be from one municipality. When challenging an Incumbent, endorsements from forty (40) Voting Members must be attached to a letter of intent. No more than one-third of the County Committee endorsements required when challenging an Incumbent can be from one municipality. In the case of members of Congress, endorsements must be from Voting Members residing in that Congressional District. In a redistricting year, only those

Voting Members from those voting districts included in the newly formed Congressional districts are eligible to endorse a candidate for Congress.

(c) Steering Committee - A Steering Committee may be established by the Chair, who will set the rules for its operation and determine the composition of the Committee. Prospective candidates for elected offices may be required to appear before the Steering Committee to propose their qualifications.

(d) Endorsements – Voting Members may only execute one letter of intent for each office to be voted upon at a Nominating Convention. If a Voting Member executes letters of intent for a particular office in a number greater than the number of seats open for nomination, all endorsements for that seat shall be null and void.

(e) Conduct of Convention - The County Chair will determine a process for the candidates and supporters to speak at the Convention. Only members of MCRC may speak at convention. Individuals wishing to speak must register with the County Chair prior to the Chair gaveling the convention to order. In the event an individual speaking is ruled out of order by the County Chair, the individual shall cease and desist from any further discussion. The County Chair shall be the Convention Chair and shall appoint any teller, sergeant-at-arms, and any other necessary individuals for the proper function of the Convention. The County Chair may extend or relax any deadlines set forth in these By-Laws if, in his opinion, it shall be in the best interests of MCRC and would further the principals as set forth above. Robert's Rules of Order will be parliamentary authority on rules not governed by law, By-Laws or rules adopted by the committee.

(f) Voting – Voting Members whose names appear on the official list of Republican County Committee members maintained by the Monmouth County Clerk at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the date of Convention shall be entitled to vote at Convention. Votes for candidates seeking state legislative or congressional office will be cast by those Voting Members from those voting districts comprising the legislative or congressional district to be voted upon. In a redistricting year, only those Voting Members from those voting districts included in the newly formed legislative or congressional districts will be entitled to vote. Votes for countywide and statewide offices will be cast by all Voting Members. Every candidate for office, including Incumbents, or his duly appointed agent, wishing support of the County Convention must appear and request support at the Convention.

Article VII – Amendment of By-Laws

These By-Laws may be amended by a vote of a majority Voting Members present at a duly held meeting. Written notice of any proposed amendment to the By-Laws shall be sent to all Voting Members in advance of the meeting at which a vote is to be held. Should any of the provisions of these By-Laws be ruled invalid, all other valid provisions shall stand.