

# Rules of the Anderson County Republican Party

## Preamble

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

## Rule 1

Under the Rules of the South Carolina Republican Party:

- A. It shall be proper to refer to the respective Republican precinct clubs in Anderson County, their members, and the members and officers of the Anderson County Committee of the Republican Party of South Carolina in the aggregate as the Anderson County Republican Party, and also in the document as the County Republican Party or the County Party.
- B. It shall also be proper for the Anderson County Committee of the Republican party of South Carolina to be referred to as the Anderson County Republican Executive Committee and also in this document as the County Executive Committee or the Executive Committee.

## Rule 2

- A. Purpose. The purpose of the Anderson County Republican Party shall be to:
  - 1. Promote the Republican philosophy, principles, and creed throughout the County;
  - 2. Work for the election of the Party's candidates, and
  - 3. Increase the effectiveness of individuals in the cause of good government through political participation.
- B. Interpretation. These Rules shall be interpreted and applied so as to substantially accomplish their objectives. The spirit and not the letter of each Rule shall be controlling. Substantial compliance with a Rule shall be sufficient. All records and lists required by these Rules shall be in writing. Most records may be stored electronically, but electronic records shall be stored in at least two (2) locations in order to prevent loss.
- C. Application. The South Carolina Code as it applies to political parties and the Rules of the South Carolina State Republican Party are included herein by reference and shall take precedence over these Rules in the event of any conflict between them. Proceedings of all business, organizational, reorganization, and committee meetings not covered by these Rules shall be guided by the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*. If a motion is made to suspend any Rule, and the Rule proposed to be suspended requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote, then the motion to suspend said rule shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote to pass.
- D. Amendments. These rules may be amended or modified only by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and shall be binding upon the County Party. The County Executive Committee or the County Party Chairman may cause explanatory footnotes to accompany these Rules.
- E. Distribution. These Rules may be reproduced and distributed as the County Executive Committee may direct. Each County Party officer and each Executive Committee member shall receive a copy at

the first meeting of the Executive Committee following reorganization. It shall be the duty of the County Party Secretary to maintain as part of the official records a complete and accurate copy of these Rules together with any changes, additions, or amendments, and to have them available at all meetings of the County Republican Party.

F. Definitions.

1. Where used in these Rules, the male gender shall include female unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.
2. "County Chairman" shall mean the duly elected Republican chairman of the County Executive Committee in his county.
3. "State Executive Committeeman" shall mean the duly elected Republican committeeman from his county to the Republican state executive committee.
4. "County Executive Committeeman" shall mean the duly elected Republican Club committeeman from his precinct to the Republican County Executive Committee in his county.
5. "Party" shall mean the South Carolina Republican Party at the state, congressional district, county, municipal, or precinct level.
6. "County Officer" shall mean any officer of the Party at the county level, duly elected or appointed, other than county committeemen.
7. "Precinct Officer" shall mean any officer of the party elected by the precinct club.
8. "First Meeting" shall be defined as the first executive committee meeting following the county convention.

**Rule 3**

A. Regular Meetings.

- a. The County Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairman or at the call of at least three (3) members of the Executive Committee, at such time and place as designated. The Committee shall adopt a schedule of regular meetings for the ensuing two-year term at the first meeting of the Committee following the county convention.
- b. It will be the responsibility of each member of the Executive Committee to provide the Party with the most effective method of notification for regular, special, or called meetings.

B. Special Meetings.

- a. No special meeting shall be held without each Executive Committee member having been given at least twenty-four (24) hours notice.
- b. Notice of any special meeting shall state the express purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be considered, unless approved by 2/3 (two-thirds) of those present.

C. Representation at Executive Committee Meetings.

- a. Executive Committee members upon arrival at a meeting of the County Executive Committee must sign in on the attendance roll and pick up their name tags for the meeting. At the end of the meeting, all Executive Committee members' tags must be turned in.
- b. If the Executive Committeeman for a precinct cannot be present at a meeting of the Executive Committee, the precinct president will be the voting member and will sign the roll and pick up a name tag as described in the previous paragraph.
- c. If neither the Executive Committeeman or president cannot be present at a meeting of the Executive Committee, then a written proxy must accompany a member of that precinct. A proxy can only be issued by the Executive Committeeman of a precinct, and must be given to the county officer responsible for carrying out the party rules.
- d. Any precinct without representation for three (3) consecutive Executive Committee meetings will be removed from the Executive Committee and it will be necessary for that precinct to be reorganized [*confer Rule 4(C)(c)*].

**Rule 4**

A. County Party Officers and Executive Committee.

- a. The Anderson County Republican Convention shall elect by majority vote of the legal votes cast a State Committeeman, a County Party Chairman, and County Party Vice Chairmen.
- b. The County Executive Convention shall appoint by majority vote of the legal votes cast the other County Party officers including, but not limited to, a County Party Secretary and a County Party Treasurer. County Party officers need not be Executive Committeemen.
- c. The County Party Chairman, or the Chairman's designee, shall be the only official spokesman of the County Party, and only the Executive Committee shall set policy.
- d. The State Committeeman from Anderson County shall be entitled to vote on any question before the County Executive Committee. The Anderson County Party Chairman may vote only in the case of a tie vote. Other officers of the County Party who are not Executive Committeemen or who are not properly qualified by proxy to cast a committee vote shall not be entitled to vote on any question.
- e. All officers of the County Republican Party shall keep appropriate records in duplicate, one copy for the County Chairman and one copy to be retained by the officer.

B. Ex-officio Members. The County Young Republican Chairman, the County Teenage Republican Chairman, and the Chairmen or Presidents of all Federated Republican Women's Clubs organized in the County shall be ex-officio, nonvoting members of the County Executive Committee.

C. Resignations, vacancies.

- a. Resignations by any County Party officer shall be submitted in writing to the County Party Chairman and County Party Secretary. A resignation by a County Executive Committeeman shall also be submitted to the president or secretary of his precinct club. Resignation by the State Committeeman shall be to the County Party Chairman, County Party Secretary, State Party Chairman, and State Party Secretary.
- b. The County Executive Committee may remove any appointed County Party officer at any time. It may

fill any vacancy in County Party offices by majority vote of the legal votes cast.

- c. The Executive Committee may declare vacant the office of any member of the Executive Committee or any officer of the County Party who is absent from three (3) consecutive Executive Committee meetings or from more than three (3) Executive Committee meetings in any six (6) month period without good cause and when such person has not authorized a proxy to attend in his place; however, before such office shall have been declared vacant, the person shall be notified by certified mail by the County Party Chairman or the County Party Secretary and be given opportunity to show cause before the County Executive Committee as to why he should not be removed from office.
- d. A vacancy shall occur immediately if a person who holds office at any level, from precinct club to County Party, engage in activities such as, but not limited to, the following:
  - 1. actively endorsing a candidate of another political party against a Republican candidate;
  - 2. becoming an announced and/or official candidate for the nomination to an elected public office of another political party;
  - 3. becoming an announced and/or official candidate for election to an elected public office on the slate of another political party;
  - 4. seeking election to a public elected office against a Party nominee, or
  - 5. becoming an officer or member of another political party.
- e. If an elected or appointed County Party officer shall become a candidate in a primary in which that County Party officer has Republican opposition, his office shall be declared vacant as of the closing of filing for such primary race. If such officer is unopposed in a primary, he shall not be required to vacate his office.
- f. Should the office of County Party Chairman, County Party Vice-Chairman, or State Committeeman become vacant, the County Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term by majority vote of the legal votes cast. Vacancy in the office of County Party Chairman shall not cause a Vice-Chairman to succeed to that office unless elected thereunto by the County Executive Committee. Vacancies in the offices of County Party Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or State Committeeman that are filled by the County Executive Committee will not thereby cause such officers to the "appointed" officers by the Committee, but shall be the same as if elected by the County Convention.
- g. A vacancy in the office of Executive Committeeman shall be filled by majority vote of the legal votes cast of the remaining officers of his precinct club.
- D. Favoritism. If more than one qualifying Republican file as candidates for nomination to the same elected office, it shall be the policy of the County Party, throughout the primary election process, to allow equal access to such Party resources that may be made available to anyone, except where a candidate in the primary has been the subject of an official censure by the Executive Committee.
  - a. The County Chairman, State Executive Committeeman, all County Vice Chairmen, County Treasurer, and County Secretary shall not publicly endorse any candidate for a county office for which there is a contested Republican primary, except where a candidate in the primary has been the subject of an official censure by the Executive Committee.
  - b. The County Chairman and State Executive Committeeman should refrain from wearing campaign paraphernalia while conducting a business meeting and/or county convention.

## Rule 5

### Quorum.

- a. Other than for the purpose of electing individuals to fill vacancies for County Party officers or for effecting changes or amendments to these Rules, the quorum for all business of the County Executive Committee shall be those County Executive Committeemen or other qualified voting members of the Executive Committee who are present after being duly notified of the meeting.
- b. For the purpose of adopting, changing, and/or amending these Rules, or removing County Party officers, or electing an individual or individuals to fill vacancies occurring in the County Party offices, a quorum shall be a simple majority of the County Executive Committee.
- c. A quorum of all County Conventions shall be one-third (1/3) of the delegates registered. A quorum of all standing committees and special committees shall be a simple majority of all members thereof.

## Rule 6

- A. Committees of the County Party. The County Party Chairman and the Executive Committee are empowered to create standing committees and special committees to facilitate the conduct of Party business. The duties of each committee will be set for them in writing by the County Party Chairman. The County Party Chairman shall be an ex-officio member of all standing and special committees, with full voting privileges, but he may not be a committee chairman. The County Party Chairman shall preside at the first meeting of a standing committee until a chairman has been elected, and he may conduct other meetings of any committee in the absence of its chairman if the chairman has not designated another committee member to preside in the chair's absence.  
Nothing contained herein shall prohibit a Republican nominee for public office, an elected official, or any Party officer from serving on a committee, except that no person other than the County Party Chairman, ex-officio, shall serve on more than two (2) standing committees, and no person shall serve as chairman of more than one (1) standing committee.
- B. Standing Committees. Standing Committees of the County Party, including but not limited to a Candidate Recruitment and Liaison Committee, shall be created after each biennial County Convention, preferably within sixty (60) days after reorganization of the Party. Membership of each standing committee shall be appointed by the Chairman.  
All members of a standing committee shall serve from the time of their appointment until the first Executive Committee meeting following the next regular biennial County Convention; however, if any member of standing committees shall miss three (3) consecutive meetings, the County Chairman shall appoint a member to replace him.
- C. Special Committees. The County Party Chairman shall have the right to appoint special committees to serve for limited periods of time and for special purposes such as, but not limited to: planning for rallies, banquets, and conventions; welcoming and hosting special guests and dignitaries, and advising the officers and/or Executive Committee on projects and plans requiring specialized expertise. The selection of members and the appointment of chairmen of special committees shall be entirely at the discretion of the County Party Chairman. Any special committee shall serve only until its designated task has been completed and its final report submitted, or until recalled by the

County Party Chairman and released from further responsibility.

### **Rule 7**

- A. Candidate Declaration. Any candidate running as a Republican and filing in Anderson County will be required to complete and sign a "Republican Platform Statement Declaration Form", indicating their "strong agreement", "general agreement", "general disagreement", or "strong disagreement" on each of the numbered issues in the County and State Republican Party Platforms. The completion and signing of this Declaration shall be effected by all candidates immediately prior to their filing for the particular office. The candidate's platform position statement shall be kept on file by the County Party and its contents may be publicly disclosed by the County Party officer(s). Should a candidate decline to complete the Declaration form, this shall also be noted on the form.
- B. In addition to all candidate pledges and/or affidavits required by South Carolina election law, all Republican candidates for any office shall be requested to sign the following declaration properly witnessed by a County Party official:

"I, (candidate's name), as an announced candidate for nomination and/or election as a Republican in Anderson County, do hereby certify that: (1) there is no legal impediment or barrier to my candidacy; (2) I will accurately state my qualification and background in connection with my candidacy, and (3) I understand my candidacy may result in public disclosure of such failure by the Anderson County Republican Party."

The signing of this declaration shall be completed by all candidates immediately prior to their filing for the particular office. If for any reason the candidate shall fail to properly sign this declaration, the county Executive Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary.

### **Rule 8**

Participation in Party Functions. No waiting period shall be required between the time of voter registration, re-registration, and/or change of address and the time of a member's participation in the business of the precinct club and in any subsequent conventions or activities of the Party.

Any member of a duly organized precinct club in Anderson County that is an elected delegate or alternate to the County Convention is eligible to be chosen as a delegate to the South Carolina State Republican Convention. Any person who desires to be a nominee for delegate to the State Republican Convention must so state on a filing form and must pay a nonrefundable filing fee to be determined by the current County Convention Committee. The form and fee must be given to the precinct president, precinct secretary, or precinct committeeman at the precinct organizational caucus, or must be delivered on the date and to the location specified by the Reorganization Committee. One copy of each completed filing form will be maintained in a public file. One (1) week before the County Convention, a ballot with names in random order shall be printed. Delegates to the State Convention shall be chosen by ballot by plurality vote of the County Convention in accordance with the State Party Rules for delegate selection. Delegates to the County Convention shall be allowed to

vote on the ballot for the number of candidates equal to the number of delegates allotted to the County plus the number of alternates.

Nominations for State Delegate will not be accepted from the floor of the County Convention; however, names inadvertently omitted from the official printed ballot may be added to the end of the ballot if the candidate can show adequate proof that he did properly meet the requirements stated above. Any question of the validity of proof shall be decided by majority vote of the delegates at the County Convention.

#### **Rule 9**

- A. Annual Budget. An annual budget shall be prepared by the officers and presented to the Executive Committee for approval no later than February 10 of each year.
- B. Discretionary Spending. The County Chairman shall have authority to spend, at his discretion, on party business and party-building activities, the amount of \$500 or 10% of the approved Annual County Party budget, whichever is smaller. Discretionary expenditures by the County Chairman must be detailed in the Treasurer's report and provided to the Executive Committee at each meeting. Specific expenditures in excess of this amount may be approved by a majority vote of the officers, and shall be reported to the Executive Committee at the next meeting.
- C. Fund Raising. All funds raised under the auspices of the Anderson County Republican Party are the property of the County Party and must be included in the Treasurer's report at the next meeting.