

Grand Traverse County
Republican Party
By-Laws

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REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

ARTICLE 1-NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1 Name:

This committee shall be known as the Republican Executive Committee of Grand Traverse County.

Section 2 Purpose:

The purpose and object of the Executive Committee shall be:

To perform all duties delegated by law and such other duties not prohibited by law as will benefit the general welfare of the Grand Traverse County, District and State Republican Party; to coordinate the affairs and business of the Grand Traverse County Republican Party; and to adopt Bylaws by which the Executive Committee Shall be governed.

Section 3 Oath:

All Delegates at the first county convention after the August Primary; and elevated delegates at subsequent county conventions, shall take an oath as follows: I (name) Do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Michigan to the best of my abilities, so help me God.

ARTICLE II-THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1 Executive Committee:

There shall be an Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Grand Traverse County which shall be established as provided by law and these Bylaws. The Executive Committee shall elect the County Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Executive Committee, and shall fill any vacancies occurring in said offices.

Section 2 Duties:

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to establish general policy and to perform such additional duties for the operation and conduct of the affairs of the Grand Traverse County Republican Party as prescribed by law or these Bylaws.

In addition, the Executive Committee may foster, promote, recognize and aid in the establishment of those clubs, groups and organizations within Grand Traverse County which will cooperate with and enhance the activities of the Republican Party, the purpose of which shall be to cooperate in the general political activities and policies of the Republican Party.

Section 3 Membership:

The membership of the Executive Committee may consist of Nominee Members, Delegate Elected Members and Ex Officio Members.

(a) Nominee Members:

The nominee members shall be the persons residing in Grand Traverse County on the Republican ballot for each county office and state legislative office at the two preceding fall primary elections. When a new nomination is made for an office, the nominee for which is entitled to serve as a member of the Executive Committee, the new nominee shall replace the former nominee member of the Executive Committee. If a vacancy occurs in the Executive Committee in the position of nominee member following the election in which he/she was a candidate, the vacancy shall not be filled. Failure to pay membership by May 1st, each year, shall automatically suspend all rights and privileges of a nominee member until the contribution is made in that calendar year.

(b) Delegate Elected Member:

The delegate elected members shall be those number of persons equal to the number of candidates of the Republican Party nominated for election to county offices and state legislative offices in Grand Traverse County and shall be selected by the delegates to the fall convention of the Republican Party of Grand Traverse County taking place in the even numbered years.

All delegate elected members must be registered voters who reside in Grand Traverse County. Delegate elected Members must attend three-quarters of the Executive Committee meetings in a calendar year unless excused by the chair. If a delegate elected member misses more than the allotted meetings that have not been excused by the chair, the member will be notified by the chair, and his or her seat may be declared vacant by a majority vote of present Executive Committee members at the next Executive Committee meeting. If a vacancy occurs in the Executive Committee in the position of delegate elected member, the remaining members of the Executive Committee present shall fill such vacancy with a majority vote. A candidate to fill the vacancy must submit in writing to the chair of his or her interest in being a candidate for the Executive Committee and must meet the eligibility criteria for delegate elected members.

All delegate elected members must be paid members of the Grand Traverse County Republican Party during the previous year and May 1st of the current year. Membership must be paid each year while serving on the Executive Committee. Failure to pay membership each year shall automatically suspend all rights and privileges of a delegate elected member until the contribution is made in that calendar year.

(c) Ex Officio Members:

If not already a member, Ex Officio Members of this committee, with voice but not with vote, shall be persons who reside in Grand Traverse County and who held the following positions: County Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, members of the Republican State Committee residing in Grand Traverse County, State Party Officers residing in Grand Traverse County, former County Chairman who have served within the last ten Years, President of the Grand Traverse County Young Republicans and the President of the Women' s Clubs, the President of each local Republican Club, and the Chairman of the various committees appointed by the County Chairman, the County Finance Chairman, the immediate past officeholders of the positions of County Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, District Chairmen for time to time and past state office holders residing in Grand Traverse County. Failure to pay membership by May 1st of each year, shall automatically suspend all rights and privileges of an Ex Officio Member until contribution is made in the calendar year.

ARTICLE III- COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Section 1 Regular Executive Committee Meetings:

Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held monthly or as required to carry out its duties at times and places to be determined by the County Chairman.

Section 2 Quorum:

A quorum for all meetings of the Executive Committee shall be one-fourth of the voting membership of the Committee represented in person, on the phone or via internet. The committee member must be a part of the discussion upon which they are voting. If a member is participating on the phone or via internet, it is that member' s responsibility to arrange a phone or internet connection.

Section 3 Proxy Voting:

No votes by proxy will be accepted.

Section 4 Special Meetings:

Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the County Chairman when he/she shall deem it advisable, when requested in writing by a quorum of the members of the Executive Committee, setting forth the reasons why such special meeting is necessary.

Section 5 Agenda:

An agenda and preliminary notice of the subject matter to be considered at meetings of the Executive Committee shall be forwarded to each member of the Committee with the notice of the time and place of the meetings not less than 24 hours prior to each meeting is necessary.

Section 6 Timing:

All resolutions proposed for consideration by the Executive Committee shall be submitted to the County Chairman at least five days prior to the meeting at which they are proposed to be introduced. This By-Law may be suspended by two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee present.

ARTICLE IV-OFFICERS

Section 1 Officers:

The offices of the Executive Committee shall be a County Chairman, a Vice Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary by the County Chairman with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 2 Elections:

The County Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by the members of the Executive Committee within thirty days following the fall county convention held in the even numbered years. The term of office for these officers shall be two years commencing January first of the odd numbered years. The County Chairman may appoint such other officers as he/she deems necessary with the approval of the Executive Committee. The term of office of such other officers shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 3 Vacancies:

In the event an officer shall resign or become ineligible to hold office, there shall be a vacancy in that office. In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of the County Chairman, the powers and duties of the County Chairman shall be assumed immediately and automatically by the Vice Chairman until a new County Chairman is elected. In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of the County Treasurer, the powers and duties of the County Treasurer shall be assumed immediately and automatically by the Secretary until a new County Treasurer is elected. All vacancies in offices shall be filled by election by the members of the Executive Committee for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE V-DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 County Chairman:

The duties of the County Chairman shall be those provided by law and also such other duties not prohibited by law as may be required by action of the Executive Committee, including but not limited to the following: The County Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee, and shall appoint and remove, with the exception of the non-elected members of the Finance Committee, the Chairman and members of all committees, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, and shall be an Ex Officio Member of all Committees of the Executive Committee.

In addition, the County Chairman shall be the chief executive of the Executive Committee, and primarily responsible for directing the day to day administration of the Republican Action Center and staff; shall be responsible for managing the routine affairs of the Grand Traverse County Republican Party; shall coordinate the activities of the Republican Party organizations with the County; shall be a member of the Finance Committee, shall prepare a proposed annual budget which shall project the estimated revenues and the proposed expenditures of the Grand Traverse County Republican Party for review and approval or modification by the Finance Committee prior to the February meeting of the Executive Committee; and may hire full or part-time paid personnel to implement Grand Traverse County Republican Party programs, subject to the prior approval of these positions by the Executive Committee. The County Chairman shall submit reports to the Executive Committee as may be required by the action of the committee, to keep the Executive Committee informed of Republican Party programs and activities; and shall assign to other officers and committees such duties as may be necessary.

Section 2 Vice Chairman:

The duties of the Vice Chairman shall be to preside at meetings of the Executive Committee in the absence of the County Chairman or at the request of the County Chairman, and to perform such other duties as directed by the County Chairman and the Executive Committee. In the event the County Chairman shall devolve upon the Vice Chairman until such inability be removed or until the County Chairman shall again take up the duties of his/her office.

Section 3 Secretary:

The duties of the Secretary shall be to perform all the duties normally incident to the office of Secretary and, in particular, to keep a permanent record of the minutes and attendance at all of the meetings of the Executive Committee; to furnish a copy of the approved minutes of the recent meeting to any number of the Executive Committee who requires the same; and to see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of law and as required by these Bylaws.

Section 4 Treasurer:

The duties of the Treasurer shall be to have the care and custody of all monies paid to the Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Grand Traverse County, and deposit the same in the name of the Executive Committee in a bank designated by the Executive Committee, and he/she shall pay all bills charged to the Executive Committee as authorized by the County Chairman within the limits specified in the budget. Any bills, the payment of which will cause a disbursement exceeding the amount budgeted, must be approved by the Executive Committee prior to payment. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the proper and timely filling of all financial reports required by law.

In addition, the Treasurer shall keep an accurate account, in permanent records, of all receipts and disbursements of funds in his/hers records, upon reasonable request, shall be open to inspection and examination by any member of the Executive Committee; and he/she shall render regular statements of the revenues, expenditures, outstanding obligations and cash balance of the Executive Committee to the County Chairman, Vice Chairman and Executive Committee a summary of such reports at each regular meeting.

The Treasurer, and such other persons as shall be designated by the County Chairman, may be bonded in a manner and in an amount as shall be prescribed by the Executive Committee, and he/she shall turn over to his/her successor all funds, money, books, accounts, rules, letters, records, papers and other property pertaining to or associated with the affairs of Treasurer upon leaving office.

At the close of each calendar year, the Treasurer shall submit an annual statement and report as of December 31st of each year, setting forth the financial condition of the Executive Committee and Republican Party of Grand Traverse County, and summarizing the income and expenditures of the Executive Committee, and shall forward the same to the County Chairman and Vice Chairman summarizing the income and expenditures of the Executive Committee by the 25th day of January of the year following, and shall present a copy of the report to the Executive Committee at the next regular meeting. Upon motion and majority vote at any special or regular meeting, the Executive Committee may order an outside audit of all books of account.

ARTICLE VI-SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Section 1 Finance Committee:

There shall be a Finance Committee which shall consist of a Finance Chairman of the Executive Committee, who shall serve as the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Treasurer, the County Chairman and three persons to be elected by the Executive Committee. The term of office of members of the Finance Committee shall commence with their election of appointment and continue for the duration of the Executive Committee, subject to provisions of Article V, Section 1 of these Bylaws. The Finance Committee shall review and may approve or modify by majority vote the proposed two-year budget which shall be submitted to it by the County Chairman.

The Finance Committee shall submit a two-year proposed budget as approved or modified by its action to the March meeting during the odd year of the Executive Committee for review and approval or modification.

The Finance Committee shall meet as needed and shall regularly report to the Executive Committee as to the current status of the financial policies and programs of the Grand Traverse County Republican Party. The Finance Committee shall recommend such changes and alterations in the annual budget as are necessary and appropriate when actual revenues and revenue projections are not adequate to support budgeted expenditures. Recommendations of the Finance Committee with reference to the budget shall be presented to the Executive Committee for acceptance of the modification at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Section 2 Committees:

The County Chairman may appoint, with the approval of the Executive Committee, the following committees, each of which may consist of as few as one person: Program Review and Development, Voter Identification Program, Media Relations, Organizational Development, Candidate Recruitment, Issues, Township, Senior Citizen and Appointments, plus such additional Committees as recommended by the Chairman.

These committees shall study, develop and administer the implementation of required programs for their respective areas of responsibility. Committee Chairman will submit quarterly written reports to the County Chairman, shall regularly report to the Executive Committee concerning their programs and activities.

ARTICLE VII-PROCEDURE

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Executive Committee in all cases in which they are applicable where said rules are not in conflict with the Bylaws of this Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII-DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the Grand Traverse County Republican Party under the auspices of the Executive Committee, all of its assets remaining after payment of all cost and expenses of such dissolution shall be distributed to the Michigan State Republican Committee or the National Republican Committee, as a majority of those members of the Executive Committee present and voting shall close. None of the assets will be distributed to any member or officer of the organization.

ARTICLE IX-AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Executive Committee membership and voting; provided that notice of any proposed amendment shall have been furnished with the meeting notice to each member of the Executive Committee. Each amendment shall take effect when it has been approved by the required margin of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X-ADOPTION

Section 1:

These Bylaws shall be adopted when approved by a majority of the members of the Executive Committee and acting at the meeting when they are presented.

Section 2:

These Bylaws shall govern the conduct of the Executive Committee and its officers and committees upon adoption by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XI-ELECTING MEMBERS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bylaws, Article II, (b) Delegate Elected Members: The delegate elected members shall be those number of persons equal to the number of candidates of the Republican Party nominated for election to county offices and state legislative offices in Grand Traverse County and shall be selected by the delegates to the fall convention of the Republican Party of Grand Traverse County taking place in the even number years.

Section 1 Qualifications for Delegate Elected Members at County Convention filling Vacancies:

To be eligible to be a Delegate Elected Member of the Executive Committee you must meet the following criteria:

- (a) A registered voter in Grand Traverse County.
- (b) A paid member of the Grand Traverse County Republican Party by May 1st of the current even numbered year.

Section 2 Qualifications to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee:

If a vacancy occurs in the Executive Committee in the position of delegate elected member, the remaining members of the Executive Committee members present shall fill such vacancy with a majority vote.

ARTICLE XII-PARTISAN ELECTIONS

An executive committee (EC) member who files to run for office in a partisan election:

- (a) for an officially recognized state party or similarly organized party other than the Republican Party shall be censured and lose all executive committee voting rights for the duration of their elected term;
- (b) as an independent against a Republican shall be censured and lose all executive committee voting rights for the duration of the election cycle that election;
- (c) items a or b of this subsection may be waived by two thirds vote of the EC, excluding the EC member in question, either before or after the filing for elective partisan election.

ARTICLE XIII-ENDORSEMENTS

Candidates who wish to be considered for endorsement by the Grand Traverse County Republican Party shall make their request in writing to the Grand Traverse County Republican Party Executive Committee. Candidate who have won the Republican nomination in a primary election will automatically be considered.

General Elections:

- (a) Any candidate who wins a Republican Primary election shall be endorsed by the Grand Traverse County Republican Party unless the endorsement is withheld by a two thirds majority vote of the Executive Committee present.

- (b) Any candidate nominated at a State or National Convention for a Republican office shall be endorsed by the Grand Traverse County Republican Party unless the endorsement is withheld by a two thirds majority vote of the Executive Committee present.

Primary Elections:

- (a) The Grand Traverse County Republican Party shall not endorse in primary elections except under these conditions:
 - 1. The candidates are running for a National office and there is agreement of a majority of executive committee members.
 - 2. The candidate is running for a Statewide office in which the district is larger than the boundaries of Grand Traverse County and there is agreement of a majority of the executive committee members.
 - 3. The candidates are running in a non-partisan race and there is agreement of a majority of the executive committee members present.

