

# **BY-LAWS and RULES of the REPUBLICAN PARTY of BUTLER COUNTY**

**As Approved February 4, 2006**

## **Mission Statement**

It is the belief of the Butler County Republican Committee that the quality of life in our county is enhanced under Republican leadership. A dedication to the following principles helps to ensure and sustain the blessings of liberty and well being as a society and makes the Republican Party the party of Butler County:

## **Butler County Republican Committee Statement of Principles**

I. Our Creator has granted us traditional moral principles which are the foundation of our society. It is incumbent upon us to uphold, strengthen and safeguard religious and other institutions which protect and embody these principles. Public policy which negates these principles or diminishes these institutions is inherently unsound.

II. Freedom is based on fundamental rights including those embodied in our Constitutions. Government is a means of securing freedom and maintaining a system of justice. Government, to be effective, must operate efficiently and economically, and must be restricted to essential public functions. Therefore, government must be limited, and it must recognize and encourage private individual and collective responsibility. Government must function with integrity, and must be accountable and responsive to the people that it represents.

III. The government power to tax and regulate, if used irresponsibly, imposes unacceptable costs upon society. The levying of taxes must be limited. Excessive taxation retards economic growth and prosperity, and diminishes personal freedom. Regulation and mandates by government should be restricted to essential public health, welfare and safety issues. In determining such policies, Congress and the Pennsylvania General Assembly should be aware of global, national and regional economic competition.

IV. A private, free market economic system is the basis of prosperity. The power of free enterprise to create jobs is the best means to eliminate poverty. The forced redistribution of wealth and the over regulation of the free enterprise system – even under the guise of law for the purpose of advancing misguided notions of social or economic justice – is destructive of the fabric of society, and must not be tolerated.

V. Justice demands an honest and impartial application of the law. It is a perversion of justice to deny equal opportunity to any individual. All people should be safe and secure in their homes and their communities. A strong system of criminal justice, which metes out sure and swift punishment to those who break the law, must not be compromised.

VI. Individual rights carry with them individual responsibilities. Included is the obligation to work to provide for oneself and one's family, thereby securing freedom through economic empowerment. Therefore, governmental interference in the employment relationship should be minimized.

VII. The development of social and educational policy should recognize the primacy of the family, and should assure parents the freedom and ability to provide strong and appropriate foundations for their children. Educational quality will be instrumental in guaranteeing America's future. Quality in education depends on a working partnership between students, parents, educators and communities. To be competitive in the world, our educational system must be accessible and competitive within itself by providing incentives for success and achievement.

VIII. The sanctity of human life is fundamental. Life has inherent dignity. Life should be afforded quality.

IX. The conservation of our environment and its natural resources, including the preservation of prime farmland, is a legacy that must be protected. Recognizing the need for business activity, public infrastructure, and safe and affordable housing, we acknowledge that the protection of our environment and natural resources should accommodate the rights of owners of private property.

X. American world leadership has been built upon and will continue to depend upon a willingness to defend and promote freedom. Support and recognition must be afforded to those men and women who have served in the defense of this Country. A strong national defense secures the blessings of liberty to our posterity.

XI. The Butler County Republican Committee demonstrates its commitment to the Republican Party through its various duties. Those duties, as outlined in the committee's bylaws, shall include:

- Registering voters as Republicans and encouraging them to vote;
- Assisting Republican voters by providing information, absentee ballot applications, and other services;
- Assisting the Republican Party in finding, nominating, and electing well-qualified Republican candidates for office;
- Assisting candidates, who are registered Republicans and who affirm traditional Republican values as referenced in the Principles Statement, in election campaigns;
- To financially aid those Republican candidates who have affirmed the Principles Statement, and as a committee, not solicit funds from Republican candidates;
- Advancing the principles of the Republican Party and of supporting candidates who affirm those principles; and
- Otherwise advancing Republican Principles in Butler County.

#### Section 1: Election of County Committee

The Republican voters shall elect one man and one woman from each precinct at each biennial election, said primary election occurring in each even numbered year, and at such time or times as may now or hereafter be designated by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Each elected committee man/ woman shall serve a term of two years or until their duly elected successor is elected.

Qualifications to hold the office of Committee man/ woman:

1. Must be a registered Republican voter at the time of filing petitions for the office and must remain a registered republican voter throughout the elected term of office.
2. Must be a citizen of good reputation and ethical standing.
3. Must never use or have used the office of committee man/woman, executive committee office, any Republican elected office or the titles and former titles of said offices to publically endorse or publically claim to vote for a Democrat candidate or Democrat elected official against a Republican.
4. The Pennsylvania Constitution which forbids those with felony records from "holding any office of trust or profit" for the state shall apply to Committee men/ women. In addition to the Pennsylvania Constitution provision, any member who has been convicted of any crime that damages the reputation of the Republican party or any of its committees, officers, candidates or elected officials shall be removed from his/her elected or appointed office.

#### Section 2: Re-organizational Meeting

The elected members of the County Committee shall convene in Butler County at such time and place as may be designated by the Chairman whose duty it shall be to call such reorganization meeting not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty-one (31) days after the certification of the aforementioned Primary Election. If the Chairman did not run for office or fails to give notice to the Executive Committee within 24 hours of the certification of the primary election to call such meeting, then the responsibility will reside with the Executive Committee officers in the following order, the Internal Vice Chairman, the External Vice Chairman or the Secretary shall call said meeting.

The Secretary shall preside as temporary Chairman for the purpose of reorganization and pass upon the eligibility of any elected member under question. The Secretary may have the right to call upon each elected member to present their Certificate of Election before said elected member's name be placed upon the Roll of Membership, providing the Committee Member is so advised when notified of the meeting.

### Section 3: Election of Executive Committee members

When the Roll of the Elected Members has been made and confirmed as to eligibility by the Secretary, he or she shall call upon the Committee for approval of its membership individually and collectively, after which they shall proceed to elect a County Chairman, Vice Chairman of External Affairs, Vice Chairman of Internal Affairs, Treasurer and Secretary. The election of these officers shall be by secret ballot.

Qualifications to serve as an officer on the Executive Committee:

1. Must meet qualifications to hold office as a Committee Man/Woman
2. Must never use or have used the office of committee man/woman, executive committee office, any Republican elected office or the titles or former titles of said offices to publically endorse or publically claim to vote for a Democrat candidate or Democrat elected official against a Republican.

### Section 4: Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee may convene the County Committee when they deem it necessary, and shall be presided over by the Chairman.

### Section 5: Proxies

Any member of the County Committee unable to attend a meeting may by written proxy name a Republican voter of his or her precinct to act for him or her. The instrument or substitution shall be signed and dated by the regular member.

### Section 6: Quorum

The committee members present, either in person or by substitute proxy, and answering roll call at any meeting duly called, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, provided that not less than one-half of the eligible members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

### Section 7: Powers and Duties of the Executive Committee

The Chairman of the County Committee or in his absence or at his request, the Internal Vice Chairman, shall preside at all meetings of the County Committee and / or Executive Committee.

The Chairman, Vice Chairman of External Affairs, Vice Chairman of Internal Affairs, Treasurer, and Secretary shall constitute the Executive Committee, which shall have the general direction, supervision, and control of the committee, and shall direct all expenditures of money.

The Chairman shall be the head of the Republican Party in Butler County.

The Internal Vice Chairman shall assist the Chairman with Committee member related business.

The External Vice Chairman shall assist the Chairman with External Committee functions.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary elected to keep full minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Committee. Such minutes shall be in a permanent form and passes on to his or her successor or the County Chairman at the expiration of the term of his or her office. The Secretary shall have charge of the books, rolls, and papers of the Committee and shall conduct the correspondence and perform such other duties as the Executive Committee may direct. The Secretary shall make all records available to the Executive committee at their request. The Secretary shall furnish a copy of the Committee Bylaws to each member of the County Committee at the member's request.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds of the Committee by keeping systematic records of all money received and paid out in books kept for that purpose and make all filings required by law.

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for appointing individuals to vacant Committee Man/ Woman positions and vacant Executive Committee positions. Appointed Committee Men/Women will have voting status at all meetings except re-organizational meetings. In the case of a vacancy in the office of Chairman, the Internal Vice Chairman shall complete the unexpired term and shall serve as Chairman of the County Committee.

#### Financial and Budget Policies:

1. On or before October 1st of each year, the Executive Committee shall approve a budget for the coming election cycle.
2. When handling cash from major fund drives, the Executive Committee shall require that at least two unrelated people will open, count, prepare and confirm the delivery of the bank deposit.
3. All individual expenditures must have specific approval of the majority of the Executive Committee.
4. When the Executive Committee makes payments for authorized expenditures from party funds, such payments shall be made only by check, shall require the co-signatures of any two of the five members of the Executive Committee, and shall have been approved by the Executive Committee as budgeted.
5. In conducting the day-to-day affairs of the Butler County Republican Party, the Executive Committee shall have the power to transfer between line items of the budget with the approval of a majority. Only the Executive Committee shall have the power to change the total budget and has no authority to approve any deficit spending.

#### Section 8: Powers and Duties of Committee Men/ Women

The Committee Members in their respective precincts shall carry out the provisions of these rules; shall have a general control and management of their respective duties, under the advice and direction of the Executive Committee. It shall be their duty to make vigorous effort to have every eligible Republican properly registered, encourage him or her to vote regularly; shall keep the Executive Committee advised of the political conditions and requirements of their respective precincts and to look after the party's interests at all elections.

#### Section 9: Vacancies on Ticket

In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Butler County Republican ticket in any election, the County Committee members representing the district or the portion thereof in which said vacancy occurs shall fill said vacancy, unless otherwise provided for by law. The executive committee shall convene and preside over a meeting of said affected members, and the members shall elect a qualified Republican to be the nominee at that meeting to fill said vacancy. A nominee shall be selected from a list of such candidates who may present their names to the Executive Committee. If a majority of the affected members or their proxies do not convene to elect a nominee, then the Executive Committee shall elect a nominee to fill the vacancy. If the County Committee is called upon to participate in a conferee process, then the Executive committee shall appoint County Committee members from the affected area to fill the conferee positions.

## Section 10: Disqualified from voting as a Committee Man/ Woman

1. A committee man / woman will be disqualified from voting if they no longer meet the qualifications to hold the office of a committee man/ woman.
2. A committee man / woman will be disqualified from voting if he / she ever used the office of committee man /woman, Executive Committee office, any republican elected office or the titles or former titles of said offices to publically endorse or publically cast a vote for a Democrat candidate or Democrat elected official against a Republican.
3. Appointed Committee man / woman will not be eligible to vote at an Executive Committee re-organizational meeting until they have been officially elected by the voters of their respective precincts.

## Section 11: Removal from office and or loss of voting privileges

A Qualifications board of three (3) qualified Committee Members, appointed by the Executive Committee shall investigate all issues that arise regarding qualifications to both holding office and voting. If the Ethics Board finds that a hearing is appropriate, it shall notify the Committee Member concerned of the time and place of the hearing. If upon investigation and after the hearing it finds that grounds for action exist, it shall so report in writing to the Executive Committee, who may, by majority declare the office vacant, suspend the Committee Member's voting privileges, or take other action appropriate under the circumstances.

It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to notify the Butler County Bureau of Elections whenever a committeeman / woman is no longer eligible to hold the office of committee man/ woman.

It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to notify the committee members if a committee member or officer has been disqualified from holding the office of committee man / woman, Executive Committee office or has lost his/her voting privileges.

A member of the Executive Committee will be removed from office by a majority vote of the Executive Committee if that officer no longer meets the qualifications to hold office as judged by the Executive Committee according to these bylaws.

It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to discontinue a committee member's voting privileges due to violations of these bylaws.

A member of the Executive Committee may be removed by a vote of the County Committee members at a meeting, provided that the proposed removal is stated in the call of the meeting. Such removal requires the affirmative vote of not less than one-half of the total number of the members then in office and of not less than two-thirds of the members voting at such meeting.

## Section 12: Amendments

The foregoing Bylaws and Rules may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any meeting, regular or special, which may be called for the expressed purpose of acting on such amendment provided that not less than ten (10) days written notice shall be given to each member.

## Section 13: Time to Take Effect and Actions to be Immediately Taken as a Result of Adoption

The By-Laws and Rules of the Republican Party of Butler County as amended shall take effect immediately upon their adoption by the County Committee.

Upon the adoption of these bylaws, the individuals serving as the executive committee under the prior bylaws will continue to serve in those same offices until the end of their current term of office.

Section 14: Repealing Section

All By-Laws, Rules and Resolutions heretofore made regulating or purporting to regulate or govern the Republican Party in the County of Butler are hereby repealed.

Date: February 4, 2006