



Pickens County Republican Party

-Rules- .

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Pickens 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 Pickens County, South Carolina.

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RULE 1

REFERENCE TO THE PARTY

Under the Rules of the South Carolina Republican Party:

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

RULE 2

RULE USAGE AND DEFINITIONS

A. Purpose. The purpose of the Pickens 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

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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 2/3 (two-thirds) majority vote, then the motion to suspend said rule shall require a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority 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.

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 Party 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

MEETINGS

A. County Convention Rules

1. There shall be no food, firearms, beverage or tobacco products on the assembly floor. Only credentialed delegates, credentialed VIP's and elected or appointed officers of the Convention shall be allowed on the Convention floor.
2. Candidates for public office may be permitted to address the convention for no more than three minutes. Guest speakers that are not candidates for public office or the keynote speaker shall be permitted to address the convention at the discretion of the Chairman.
3. Nominations for party officers may be listed on official ballot or nominated from the floor of the Convention or both.
4. Each candidate for a contested party office shall be limited to a speech of not more than five minutes in length.
5. Each candidate shall be allowed one nominating speech of not more than two minutes in length and two seconding speeches of not more than one minute in length.
6. Elections in contested races for party officers shall be conducted by secret ballot.
7. Elections for state delegates shall be determined by a plurality vote utilizing a secret ballot. Delegates may cast their official (pre-printed) ballots any time during the convention by placing completed ballots in the ballot box provided at the convention.
8. Each delegate to the county convention may vote for as many state and district delegate candidates up to a number equal that of the number of whole votes allocated to the county at the state convention.
9. The Chair shall give preference to the maker of a motion to speak first to the motion. Recognition shall alternate, so far as practicable, between those favoring the question and opposing the question. Debate shall be limited to five minutes per side on each question. No member may speak a second time until all those wishing to speak on the same side of the question have spoken. No person may speak more than twice on any motion before the assembly.
10. Resolutions must be submitted in writing and approved at a precinct committee meeting. If not approved at a precinct meeting, resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Chair and the author of the resolution must provide a copy to each credentialed delegate.
11. The proceedings of this county convention, not covered by these or other county party Rules or by enforceable provisions of the South Carolina election

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law, shall conform to the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

B. Regular Meeting

1. The County Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairman, 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.
2. 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.

C. Special Meetings

1. No special meeting shall be held without each Executive Committee member having been given at least twenty-four (24) hours notice.

D. Representation at Executive Committee Meetings

1. 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.
2. If 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.
3. Any precinct without representation for three (3) consecutive Executive Committee meetings may, at the discretion of the Chairman, be removed from the Executive Committee and it will be necessary for that precinct to be reorganized.

RULE 4

A

COUNTY OFFICERS

County Party Officers and Executive Committee.

1. The Pickens County Republican Convention shall elect by majority vote of the legal votes cast a State Committeeman, a County Party Chairman, a County Party First Vice Chairman, and a County Party Second Vice Chairman.
2. 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

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County Party Secretary and a County Party Treasurer. County Party officers need not be Executive Committeemen.

3. 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.
4. The State Committeeman from Pickens County shall be entitled to vote on any question before the County Executive Committee. The Pickens 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.
5. 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.
6. All officers of the Pickens County Republican Party shall have voted in the last two Republican Primary Elections that preceded the last two regularly scheduled general elections. Proof of the primary voting shall be on the officer. Exception may be made by the Chairman or Executive Committee for cases where age or county residency is concerned.
7. All officers of the Pickens County Republican Party shall be prohibited from holding a partisan publicly elected government office.
8. After the appropriate change in South Carolina law, all officers of the Pickens County Republican Party shall be registered as a Republican. Exception may be made by the Chairman or Executive Committee for cases where age or county residency is concerned.

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 exofficio, nonvoting members of the County Executive Committee.

c. Resignations, vacancies.

1. 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 Precinct Committeeman shall also be submitted to the president or secretary of his precinct club.
2. Resignation by the State Committeeman shall be to the County Party Chairman, County Party Secretary, State Party Chairman, and State Party Secretary.

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3. 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.
4. 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.
5. A vacancy shall occur immediately if a person who holds office at any level, from precinct club to County Party:
 - a. becomes an announced and/or official candidate for the nomination to an elected public office of another political party,
 - b. becomes an announced and/or official candidate for election to an elected public office on the slate of another political party except in instances of electoral fusion initiated by another political party after the officer has filed as a Republican,
 - c. seeks election to a public elected office against a Party nominee, or
 - d. becomes an officer or member of another political party.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Vacancy in the office of County Party Chairman shall not cause the ViceChairman to succeed to that office unless elected thereunto by the County Executive Committee.
9. 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 be "appointed" officers by the Committee, but shall be the same as if elected by the County Convention.
10. 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.

1. 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

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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 blatantly disregarded the platform of the S.C. Republican Party.

2. 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 blatantly disregarded the platform of the S.C. Republican Party.
3. The County Chairman and State Executive Committeeman should refrain from wearing campaign paraphernalia while conducting a business meeting and/or county convention.

RULE 5

RESOLUTIONS

All resolutions coming before the Executive Committee or Convention shall be forwarded to the Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee shall have the authority to accept, reject, or amend any resolution coming before the committee. Upon action of the Resolutions Committee, all resolutions will be reviewed and may be accepted, rejected, or amended prior to approval by the Executive Committee.

RULE 6

QUORUM

- A. Other than for the purpose of electing individuals to fill vacancies for County Party officers, suspension of any rule contained herein, 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.
- B. For the purpose of adopting, changing, suspending, and/or amending these Rules, 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 7

COMMITTEES

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 8

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTED OFFICE

Any candidate running as a Republican and filing in Pickens County will be requested 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. This declaration shall be submitted electronically to the Chairman.

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The completion and signing of this Declaration shall be affected 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. Additionally, candidate's answers shall be posted on the Pickens County Republican Party Web Site.

RULE 9

ANNUAL BUDGET

- A. The Chairman is responsible for developing an annual budget for approval by the Executive Committee.
- B. The Pickens County Republican Party is responsible for raising such funds as necessary to fund the approved budget.

RULE 10

PARTICIPATION IN PARTY FUNCTIONS

No waiting period shall be required between the time of voter registration, reregistration, 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 Pickens 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.

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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.