

Constitution of the Republican Party of Outagamie County

The first Republican Party of Outagamie County organization constitution was adopted May 20, 1959. This constitution supersedes all previous constitution, once it is approved by members of OCRP at caucus.

Article I Name

The name of this organization is the Republican Party of Outagamie County, which may also be known as the Outagamie County Republican Party, hereinafter referred to as "OCRP."

Article II Mission and Principles

Section 1 – Mission Statement

The mission of the OCRP is to identify and unify those people who share our beliefs, and to elect such Republicans to all levels of government.

Section 2 – Statement of Principles The ORCP believes in these principles:

1. The United States of America is the leader of the Free World. As the world's leader, the USA must set the example for all other nations. Our nation's spirit is expressed in the Declaration of Independence and in the thoughts of our Founding Fathers. Our republican form of government, based upon that spirit and set forth in the United States Constitution is the best form of government yet devised.

2. The strength of our nation lies in the principle of freedom and respect for the individual. Each person's dignity, freedom, abilities and responsibility must be honored. Every citizen is entitled to equal rights, equal justice, and equal opportunity regardless of race, creed, sex, age or disability. Freedom of expression and encouragement of individual initiative have brought our country opportunity, economic growth and prosperity, and those freedoms need to be expanded to include as many residents of the global community as possible. We must continue to follow the system of free enterprise that has made our country great, and show respect for the property rights of the individual.

3. We Americans must retain the principles which have made us strong while developing new and innovative ideas to meet the challenges of the new millennium. We

need to preserve our national strength and pride while setting the example in working to extend peace, freedom and human rights throughout the world.

4. Our government is run by the people. The government that is closest to the people is the most effective, responsible, and responsive one. Therefore, the federal government should provide only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals, private organizations or local governments. Experience has also shown that the government that governs the least governs best. Government must practice fiscal responsibility to carry out its limited functions.

Section 3 – Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to coordinate and unify under one central organization the activities of the OCRP, to advance fundamental Republican principles and policies in every honorable way, and, as a voluntary organization, to cooperate and assist in all county, state, and national elections to the end that our republican form of government, as created under the Constitution of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, shall be preserved.

The organization shall direct, manage, supervise and control the business, property, and funds of the OCRP.

Article III Membership

Section 1 – Membership

Membership in this organization shall be open to all United States citizens of voting age who reside in Outagamie County and believe in the mission statement, objectives, purposes and principles of the Republican Party. Membership shall be obtained by making an application in a manner approved by the Executive Committee and by paying annual dues in a timely fashion.

No one may become or remain a member in good standing if: a. they act contrary to the interests of the OCRP;

b. they become a member or act on behalf of a different political party, political party committee, or candidate thereof;

c. they are not entitled to membership based upon any Republican Party of Wisconsin or Republican National Committee rules; or

d. their membership in OCRP would violate any Federal Elections Commission or Wisconsin Government Accountability Board rules.

Section 2 – Dues

The amounts and categories of membership dues shall be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee. The membership year shall be the calendar year, beginning on January 1st and ending December 31st. Annual dues are to be paid or postmarked no later than December 31st of the year proceeding the membership year, in order to be eligible to vote at the annual County Caucus and be elected as a delegate for the District Caucus and the annual Republican Party of Wisconsin State Convention.

Section 3 – Voting Rights

All members in good standing are entitled to vote at the County Caucus. Good standing is evidenced by reference to the membership roster prepared by the membership chair, or designee appointed by the Chair and confirmed by the Executive Committee, in advance of each meeting or caucus.

Section 4 – Membership Termination

Resignation of a member shall take effect when written notice is submitted to the Chair or Secretary and is acted upon by the Executive Committee. Membership may be terminated by a two-thirds majority of the entire Executive committee, following due process according to Robert's Rules as modified by OCRP bylaws, and subject to ratification by the OCRP membership.

Article IV Constitutional Officers

Section 1 – Constitutional Officers

The Constitutional Officers of this organization shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who must be members in good standing of the OCRP.

Section 2 – Compensation

All Constitutional Officers shall serve without compensation, except that they may be reimbursed for expenses with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 3 – Election and Terms of Office

All Constitutional Officers shall be elected in a duly constituted County Caucus prior to February 28th in the odd-numbered years. Such officers shall serve a two-year term or until their successors are elected.

Section 4 – Duties

Chair – The Chair shall be the principal executive officer of the organization and subject to the direction of the Executive Committee and the membership. The Chair shall have general supervision and direction of the business and affairs of the organization. The Chair shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the membership and the Executive Committee. Subject to the subsequent approval of the Executive Committee, the Chairman shall approve all expenditures in excess of \$350.00 or such other amount as the Executive Committee may direct. The Chair shall serve as an ex-officio member of all subcommittees, except the Nominating Committee.

Vice-Chair - The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence or inability of the Chair to act. When so acting, the Vice-Chair shall have all the powers of the Chair. The Vice-Chair shall also perform such other duties as the Chair may direct.

Secretary – The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the membership meetings, caucuses and the Executive Committee, and shall be the custodian of the books and records of the organization. The Secretary shall perform all the duties that generally relate to the office of Secretary, other than those delegated to the Membership Committee Chair, and shall also perform such other duties as the Chair may direct. The Chair of any meeting may appoint a temporary Secretary in the absence of the permanent Secretary of the party.

Treasurer – The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of the funds of the organization from all sources and shall deposit such monies in the name of the organization in a depository designated by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall render current financial statements at each regular meeting of the Executive Committee, and at all meetings of the members. Disbursements shall be by check only and shall require approval of the Executive Committee and/or the Chair when they exceed \$350.00 or such other amount as the Executive Committee may direct. The Treasurer shall perform all other duties as the Chair may direct. If required by the Executive Committee, the Treasurer shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of the Treasurer's duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Executive Committee may determine to be appropriate. The Treasurer shall present a budget at the first full meeting of the Executive Committee at the beginning of the odd numbered year term.

Article V Executive Committee

Section 1 – Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- a. All elected Constitutional Officers.
- b. All Standing Committee Chairs.
- c. All elected Republicans with districts containing at least a portion of Outagamie County as ex officio members.
- d. A member of any recognized affiliates in existence with the county, who shall be non- voting.
- e. No more than six Members-at-Large shall be appointed to terms no more than one year in duration. All Members-at-Large terms shall terminate at the annual caucus.

Section 2 – Quorum of Executive Committee

A majority of the current voting membership of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3 – Powers and Duties

The Executive Committee shall have authority to transact any necessary business between meetings or caucuses. It shall make recommendations to the membership concerning the policies of the party. It shall advise the Chair and shall fill vacancies that occur between elections. It shall approve all party expenditures of more than \$350.00 or such other amount as the Executive Committee directs.

Section 4 – Meetings of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall meet upon a call of the Chair or upon written request of a majority of the current voting membership of the Executive Committee and upon notice being given to all Executive Committee members. Any OCRP member in good standing may attend any meeting of the Executive Committee.

Section 5 – Conflict of Interest

The members of the Executive Committee who hold or may be seeking public office, shall refrain from voting on any motions involving their candidacy.

Article VI Nominations and Elections

Section 1 – Constitutional Officer Nominations

A Nominating Committee of no less than five members in good standing shall be appointed by the Chair and confirmed by the Executive Committee at least 30 days prior to each election. This committee shall report at least one nominee for each office to be filled at the Caucus for such elections, after which nominations from the floor shall be allowed.

Section 2 – Delegate Nominations

A Nominating Committee of no less than five members in good standing shall be appointed by the Chair and confirmed by the Executive Committee, at least 30 days prior to each election, for the purpose of nominating delegates and alternates to attend each District Caucus and Republican Party of Wisconsin State Convention. The list of nominee delegates and alternates shall be published and distributed prior to the call to order of the County Caucus. Nominations may also be made from the floor of the County Caucus.

Section 3 – Elections

If there is only one candidate for a particular office, that election may be by voice vote. If more than one candidate for a particular office is nominated, that election shall be by written ballot. A majority of the votes cast shall elect each officer.

Article VII

Meetings and Caucuses of the Memberships

Section 1 – Notice

All meetings and caucuses of the members shall be held upon eight (8) days written notice to all members in good standing, to the address of record provided by that member, or published at least twice, or both, at the call of the Chair or a petition signed by a majority of the Executive Committee. Meetings of members shall also be called upon petition of twenty-five (25) members in good standing. Such a petition shall state the exact purpose of the meeting or caucus.

Upon receipt of such a petition, the Executive Committee shall send out notice, as soon as possible, of a special meeting of the membership, to be held within thirty days of the receipt of such a qualified petition.

Section 2 – Conforming with District Caucus

The OCRP shall hold its annual County Caucus at least 30 days before the District Caucus, and no later

than February 28th. The delegates and alternates to the District Caucus and Republican Party of Wisconsin State Convention shall be elected at the County Caucus.

Section 3 – Eligibility to Vote

To be eligible to vote at the county Caucus, members must be in good standing, as specified in Article III.

Section 4 – Voting by Proxy Voting by proxy is not allowed.

Section 5 – Quorum

Fifteen (15) members shall constitute a quorum at the annual OCRP Caucus and other meetings of the membership.

Article VIII Electronic Meetings

Regular and Special Meetings of the Executive Committee, any subcommittee or special committee, may be held by electronic means (such as telephone conference, video conference, or internet communication system), subject to the following requirements:

- a. all of the members shall have access to the specified electronic media;
- b. a quorum for the meeting shall be established by roll call vote and, once established, shall be assumed present until the meeting is adjourned;
- c. the technology used for the electronic meetings shall allow the members full access to and full participation in all meeting transactions either continuously or intermittently throughout the specified time of the meeting; and,
- d. the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum shall be the minimum vote requirement for the adoption of any motion, with a roll call being required upon request of any member participating in the meeting.

Article IX Standing Committees

Section 1 – Committees

The chairs and members of all Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Chair and confirmed by the Executive Committee, and they shall perform such duties as determined by the Executive Committee. The Standing Committees shall be as follows:

- a.) Membership
- b.) Publicity
- c.) Communications
- d.) Social Media
- e.) Website
- f.) Events
- g.) Campaign
- h.) Community Outreach

Article X Robert's Rules of Order

"Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern all proceedings except where inconsistent with the Constitution and By-laws of this organization.

Article XI Ambiguity

In the event of any conflict or ambiguity of this Constitution or By-laws adopted hereunder, the Constitution of the Republican Party of Wisconsin shall prevail.

Article XII By-laws

By-laws may be adopted in compliance with this Constitution by a majority vote of the members present at a duly called County Meeting or Caucus, or a three-fourths vote of the entire Executive Committee.

Article XIII Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be made by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting or caucus of this organization where previous notice has been given to the members, as specified in Article VII, Section 1. Such amendments shall be made subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Wisconsin.