

# MERCER COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

Approved 2002

Amended March 18, 2010

Amended January 20, 2011

## ARTICLE I

**Section 1. Name:** This organization shall be known as the Mercer County Republican Committee [hereinafter referred to as "COMMITTEE"]

**Section 2. Purpose:** The purpose of this COMMITTEE is to nominate qualified candidates for all public offices, as well as promote the principles, establish the policy, direct the affairs and further the goals of the Republican Party and to insure decent and responsible government in our community and its municipalities.

## ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1. Membership Eligibility:** All members of the COMMITTEE shall be registered Republican voters and shall not be, or declare themselves to be, members of any other political party, which actively supports candidates or principles contrary to the interests of the Mercer County Republican Party as established by the COMMITTEE.

**Section 2. Election or Appointment:** The COMMITTEE shall consist of one male and one female residing in each voting or election district in the County who shall be duly elected at the primary for the general election in every even numbered year or who shall be appointed to said position as herein provided for in this Constitution.

**Section 3. Additional Members:** The following Mercer County residents shall also be full voting members of the COMMITTEE:

All Republican Municipal Chairs; all Municipal Republican Club Presidents; all registered Republicans elected in partisan elections to public office [excluding School Board officials]; all registered Republicans elected to public office [excluding School Board officials] in municipalities which hold non-partisan elections for municipal office in Mercer County; all Republican State Committee members who reside in Mercer County; and all Executive Committee members and officers appointed according to this Constitution.

**Section 4. Term:** The term of office for all COMMITTEE members shall be 2 years and shall terminate at 12:01 a.m. on the first Saturday following the primary election of each even numbered year.

**Section 5. Vacancies:** All vacancies caused by death, resignation, removal, and failure to elect or otherwise shall be filled for the unexpired term in the following manner:

a. Any vacancies in COMMITTEE election district positions shall be filled by the members of the COMMITTEE in the municipality wherein the vacancy occurs within 30 days of the reorganization meeting of the municipal committee, pursuant to Title 19 of New Jersey Statutes. In the event that the members of the COMMITTEE in that municipality fail to fill said vacancy within 30 days, or in the event of a vacancy in the COMMITTEE at any other time, the County Chair shall have the power to appoint a member to fill said vacancy; provided however, that members of the COMMITTEE from a municipality where a vacancy exists may fill said vacancy at any time after the expiration of the 30 days and the Municipal Chair shall send notice to the County Chair including the name and address of said replacement within 7 days of appointment. The County Chair shall then have 7 days from receipt of notice of appointment from the Municipal Chair to review said appointment and approve or reject the same. The County Chair retains the ability to approve or reject the recommendations of all times. The County Chair shall provide written notice of rejection to the Municipal Chair in which case the position shall be considered vacant. If the County Chair does not respond to a municipal notice of appointment within the 7-day period, said appointment shall be valid and the appointed member shall have full voting rights.

### ARTICLE III – MEETINGS

**Section 1. *Bi-Annual Reorganization:*** The COMMITTEE shall hold a reorganization meeting, upon proper notice as provided herein, on the first Tuesday after the primary election in every even numbered year for the purpose of electing officers as provided herein. All individuals elected to the COMMITTEE at the primary election in every even numbered year shall receive notice of the reorganization meeting as provided herein.

**Section 2. *Annual Convention:*** The COMMITTEE shall hold an annual convention, upon proper notice as provided for herein, to select or endorse candidates for federal, state and county offices which will appear on the ballot in that year. The time of said convention shall be established by the Chair with the approval of the Executive Committee.

**Section 3. *Special Meetings:*** Special meetings may be called by the Chair, upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee, hereinafter described, or upon the signed petition of 1/3 of the eligible membership of the COMMITTEE. Written notice of all special meetings shall be mailed to all members of the COMMITTEE at least seven (7) days prior to any such meeting. The notice shall state the purpose or purposes of said meeting and no other matter may be finally acted upon, unless reasonably specified in such statement of purpose for said meeting.

**Section 4. *Regular Meetings:*** Regular meetings shall be held at a time and place determined by the Chair. There shall be at least two regular meetings of the COMMITTEE every year.

## ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

**Section 1. Officers:** The officers of the COMMITTEE shall be the County Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Counsel, Recording Secretary, Deputy Treasurer.

**Section 2. Term and Election:** The officers, with the exception of the Recording Secretary, Committee Counsel and Deputy Treasurer, of the COMMITTEE shall be elected at the organizational meeting to be held in June of each even number year as provided for in ARTICLE IV. The term of office for each officer shall be two years. The Recording Secretary, Deputy Treasurer, and Committee Counsel shall be appointed by the County Chair and shall serve at the Chair's pleasure.

**Section 3. Eligibility:** All officers shall be registered Republicans residing in the County of Mercer.

**Section 4. Powers and Duties:** The following powers and duties are granted to the officers of the COMMITTEE:

- 1) Chair - The Chair shall be the presiding officer of the COMMITTEE.  
The Chair shall: preside at all meetings of the COMMITTEE; have the power to enter into all contracts and obligations and spend all necessary and reasonable funds for the proper and effective operation of the COMMITTEE; determine the needs and have the ability to hire all personnel for the effective operation of the COMMITTEE; have the power to create subcommittees, designate subcommittee members and chairs and shall be an ex-officio member of all such subcommittees; have all powers granted by law; and have any additional and reasonable powers deemed necessary, and not proscribed by said Constitution, for the effective operation of the COMMITTEE. The Chair shall have the specific ability to redelegate the roles of the officers hereinafter, in order to ensure efficient operation of the COMMITTEE.
- 2) 1st Vice Chair - The 1st Vice Chair shall assist the Chair perform any and all duties required by this Constitution and shall have the power to perform all duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair shall be of the opposite gender of the Chair.
- 3) 2nd Vice Chair - The 2nd Vice Chair shall also assist the Chair perform any and all duties required by this Constitution.
- 4) Secretary - The Secretary shall maintain and keep accurate files of all-important papers of the COMMITTEE and shall maintain and keep a current list of the members of the COMMITTEE, including names and addresses. The Secretary shall perform any other duties assigned by the Chair.
- 5) Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be the general custodian of all funds of the COMMITTEE and shall keep accurate records of all receipts and expenditures of the

COMMITTEE. The Treasurer shall deposit all monies received into COMMITTEE bank accounts in a timely manner. The Treasurer shall provide monthly financial statements of the COMMITTEE to the Executive Committee and shall make a financial report at every meeting of the full COMMITTEE. All tax returns required by the federal or state government shall be filed in a timely manner by the Treasurer. In addition, the Treasurer shall file all required reports with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission or the Federal Election Commission. Upon approval of the Chair, the Treasurer shall pay all obligations of the COMMITTEE.

- 6) Deputy Treasurer - The Deputy Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer perform any and all duties required under this Constitution.
- 7) Recording Secretary - The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee and COMMITTEE and shall keep and maintain all such minutes on file and shall perform any other duties requested by the Chair.
- 8) Committee Counsel - The Committee Counsel shall provide legal counsel to the Chair and handle all legal matters for the COMMITTEE. The Committee Counsel shall also Chair the Rules Committee and handle any other matters requested by the Chair.

**Section 5. Vacancies:** a. A vacancy occurring in the office of County Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer shall be filled by vote of the Mercer County Republican Executive Committee at a special meeting called for that purpose. A vacancy occurring in the office of deputy treasurer, recording secretary, or committee counsel shall be filled by the County Chairperson. All such vacancies shall be filled within thirty (30) days after their occurrence. In the event of vacancy, those offices shall be filled for the unexpired term by vote of the Mercer County Executive Committee at a meeting called for that purpose.

## **ARTICLE V - COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1. Executive Committee:**

The Executive Committee shall formulate the policies and conduct the affairs of the Republican Party in the County of Mercer. It shall possess and exercise the authority to do all things necessary and proper for execution of the powers vested in it, for furthering the goals of the Republican Party and for insuring decent and responsible government in the Community.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the following persons:

- a) The officers of the Mercer County Republican Committee, as defined in Article IV of this constitution.
- b) The two (2) State Committee members.

- c) The duly elected municipal chairperson of each municipality in the County of Mercer.
- d) Three (3) registered Republican voters currently holding elective public municipal, county or state office to be chosen by the County Chairman. Each person so chosen shall reside in a different municipality.
- f) Thirteen (13) registered Republican voters, one selected from each municipality. Hamilton Township shall have an addition three (3) members and, Ewing Township an additional one (1) member. The said representative(s) shall be appointed by the Municipal Chairperson.
- g) Ten (10) persons to be appointed by the County Chair. In addition, five (5) registered Republican voters shall be chosen by the County Chair to represent all Republicans including representatives of organized labor, industry, business, and public employee groups.
- h) The Chairperson of the Capital Club.
- i) The immediate four (4) past Chairs of the COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee shall meet at least six (6) times a year.

**Section 2. Other Committees:** The Chair can, at their discretion, form ad-hoc committees on issues and matters of concern to the COMMITTEE. Membership of these committees shall be determined by the Chair with recommendations from the Executive Committee. These committees shall from time to time make reports to the Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE VI – NOTICE AND QUORUM

**Section 1. Notice:** No election, act or decision of the COMMITTEE or the Executive Committee shall be effective for any purpose unless written notice of the meeting is mailed or delivered to all eligible members of either body, at least seven (7) days prior to any such meeting, unless a greater notice period is required herein or by law.

**Section 2. Quorum:** Physical attendance at any such meeting shall be at least 20% of the eligible membership of either body, which shall constitute a quorum.

## ARTICLE VII – VOTING

**Section 1. Elections:** All votes to elect, endorse, remove, discipline, or otherwise affect the rights of any person within the Republican Party as provided for under this Constitution, shall be by secret ballot.

**Section 2. Other Matters:** Any other act or decision of the COMMITTEE or other bodies created herein that requires a vote not covered by Article VII, Section 1, shall be by voice vote, unless a majority of the members present at such a meeting shall otherwise determine.

**Section 3. Proxies:** Proxy voting shall not be permitted. All members shall be in physical attendance of any meeting in order to cast their vote.

## ARTICLE VIII – MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES

**Section 1. Municipal Constitutions:** All Republican municipal committees shall provide a copy of the municipal committee constitution to the County Chair within 3 months of the adoption of this Constitution. Any subsequent amendments or revisions to the municipal constitution shall be delivered to the County Chair within 30 days thereof. Municipal constitutions shall not in any manner supercede or contradict this Constitution. If it is determined by the Executive Committee that a municipal constitution is in conflict with the provisions of this Constitution, the Executive Committee shall provide notice to the municipal chair that said provisions in conflict must be amended accordingly. If said amendments are not made by the municipal committee or a municipal committee does not provide the County Chair with a copy of the municipal constitution, that municipal committee shall forfeit representation on the Executive Committee during the period of such default.

**Section 2. Municipal Meetings:** Each municipal committee constitution shall require at least one annual meeting. The municipal committee shall advise the County Chair in writing of the date, time and place of said meeting. If the municipal committee shall fail to hold an annual meeting within 30 days of the date provided for in the municipal constitution, it shall be conclusively presumed that the municipal committee is unable to act for this purpose and in order to insure the integrity and continuity of the Mercer County Republican Committee, the County Chair has the power to appoint a new acting municipal chair and any other officers as the municipal constitution provides in order that the provisions of the municipal constitution are carried out. In such an event, the acting municipal chair will call for a special election for the purposes of electing a new municipal chair within 60 days of appointment by the County Chair.

## ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

**Section 1. Repeals and Supersedes:** Upon adoption of this Constitution by a 2/3rds vote of the members of the COMMITTEE, this Constitution shall supersede any and all previous Constitutions and By-laws of the Mercer County Republican Committee.

**Section 2. Severability:** If any provision of this Constitution or the application thereof is held to be invalid by law, the remainder of the Constitution shall not be affected and shall remain in force.

**Section 3. Amendments:** This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3rds vote of all members of the COMMITTEE present at any regular or special meeting provided due notice of said meeting shall have been given and a copy of any proposed amendment shall be given to each and every member of the COMMITTEE with such meeting notice. Any proposed

amendment shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee, which by a majority vote, shall decide whether such amendment shall be submitted to the full COMMITTEE for consideration. The full COMMITTEE, by majority vote, shall decide if the amendment shall be considered.

**Section 4. *Review*:** The County Chair may appoint a committee to review this Constitution and make recommendations for amendments when deemed necessary.

#### ARTICLE X – GENERAL RULES

**Section 1. *Meeting Rules*:** Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the conduct of COMMITTEE meetings except to the extent that they may be in conflict with any provision of the Constitution in which event the provisions of this Constitution shall govern.

**Section 2. *Annual Convention Rules*:** The Executive Committee shall adopt, upon recommendations from the Convention Rules Committee, appointed by the Chair in anticipation of the annual convention, additional rules to govern the Annual Convention. Said rules shall be adopted prior to the Convention and be provided to members attending the Convention.

**Section 3. *Amendment Meetings*:** The Executive Committee may adopt specific rules to govern a COMMITTEE meeting wherein an amendment to this Constitution shall be considered.

Adopted by a two-thirds majority of the COMMITTEE and sworn before me on:

Catherine DiCostanzo

Secretary

Phil Angarone, Jr.

Chair

Date Approved:

**AMENDMENTS**

**ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. *Executive Committee*:** paragraph 2 is amended to include subsections “j” and “k” effective March 18, 2010:

The Executive Committee shall include the following persons:

- j. The chairperson of the Mercer County Young Republicans
- k. The president of the Republican Women of Mercer County

**ARTICLE III – MEETINGS**

**Section 4. *Regular Meetings*** is amended effective March 18, 2010 to read as follows: Regular meetings shall be held at a time and place determined by the Chair.

**Section 5. *Number of Meetings*** is added to the Constitution effective March 18, 2010 to read as follows: There shall be a minimum of two meetings of the Mercer County Republican Committee annually one of which will be the Annual Convention

Adopted by a two-thirds majority of the COMMITTEE present at its regular meeting on March 18, 2010.

*Shirley Guerieri*

Secretary

*Roy M. Wesley*

Chair

Date Approved: March 18, 2010



**AMENDMENTS**

**ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 5. Removal** is added to the Constitution effective January 20, 2011 to read as follows: An elected officer of the Mercer County Republican Committee shall be removed from office upon the vote of no less than two-thirds of the Committee in attendance at a specially called meeting called for the purpose of considering said removal. The special meeting may be called by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at any meeting of said Executive Committee, by Petition for Removal signed by no less than a majority of said Executive Committee or by Petition for Removal signed by no less than fifty percent of the Members of the Mercer County Republican Committee.

Adopted by a two-thirds majority of the COMMITTEE present at a special meeting held on January 20, 2011.

*Shirley Guerieri*

Secretary

*Roy M. Wesley*

Chair

Date Approved: January 20, 2011

Respectfully submitted this 1st day of February, 2011

*Maria Bua*

Acting Chair, Mercer County Republican Committee