

## **FINAL DRAFT**

### **Monmouth County Republican Committee By-Laws**

#### **ARTICLE I – Name**

The name of this body shall be known as “The Monmouth County Republican Committee” hereinafter referred to as MCRC.

#### **ARTICLE II – Objectives**

The objectives of the MCRC shall be as follows:

1. To promote and maintain good government based upon principles and ideals of the Republican Party.
2. To maintain liaison with the Republican Party of NJ, local Republican Committees, Republican members of the State Legislature who represent Monmouth County (or parts of the County) and other Republican office holders at County, State and National levels of government.
3. To recruit qualified candidates to run for public office as Republicans.
4. To assist in electing and re-electing qualified Republican candidates.
5. To promote sound organization of the Republican Party at County and Municipal levels within the County.
6. To fulfill obligations imposed by law upon County Committees, including the selection of nominees and candidates for public office in certain circumstances where vacancies are declared.
7. To support the concept of open Conventions in order to encourage all qualified individuals to seek public office.

#### **ARTICLE III – Members**

Section 1. – Qualifications – MCRC meetings shall be open to all registered Republican voters who are residents of this County. However, voting privileges are limited to voting members, as designated below:

Section 2. - Voting Membership – MCRC voting members shall be elected in accordance with Title 19.

a) Except as otherwise provided, the MCRC shall be composed of one (1) male and one (1) female registered Republican from each voting district in the County, duly elected at the primary election, every other year, or subsequently appointed and elected at the reorganization of the Municipal Committee at a duly authorized meeting as required by N.J.S.A.19:5-2, before the reorganization meeting of the MCRC.

b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all members of the MCRC shall reside in the district in which they are elected.

c) The term of all members elected in the primary election shall be for two (2) years.

d) The terms of all members appointed/or elected by the Municipal Committee shall be for the remainder of the unexpired two (2) year term in accordance with N.J.S.A.19:5-3.

e) Each member of the MCRC shall promote the principals, policies, goals and objectives of the MCRC.

Section 3. - Election Procedure. County Committee lists for the MCRC shall be submitted by the County Clerk on the date of the convention or as close to the date as possible.

Section 4. - Non-Voting Members. Republican State Legislators who reside in this County, State Committeeman and Committeewoman elected from this County, the Chairs of the Municipal Republican Committees in this County and elected County officials shall be non-voting members of MCRC.

Section 5. - Vacancies caused by death, resignation, departure from the County, failure to elect or otherwise shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Municipal Committee of the municipality for which the vacancy occurred, if there is such a committee. If there is no Municipal Committee in place, the vacancy shall be filled by the County Chairman. Municipal Committee shall mean the elected members of the MCRC who have organized themselves into Municipal Committees provided by law.

Section 6. - Board of Directors – Regions shall be established within the County by the County Chairman, for example Bayshore, Central, Middletown, North and South Shores, Two Rivers and Western Monmouth. The allocation of votes for each region shall be set by the County Chairman. Municipal Chairs of a specific region shall select an individual(s) to serve as a member(s) of the Board of Directors. No members appointed to the Board of Directors by the Municipal Chairs shall serve longer than one consecutive year, but may serve less time as determined by the Municipal Chairs in each region. The members designated in each section shall meet at the call of the County Chairman to act as an Advisory Board in part and policy.

The County Chairman shall have the privilege of appointing the following as voting members to the Board of Directors:

1. Liaison from the County Elected Officials to the Board

2. Liaison from the State Legislators to the Board

3. Liaison from the Tea Party to the Board

Said Liaisons shall serve at the pleasure of the County Chairman. The Board of Directors will be responsible for the execution of the policy of the MCRC in the management and political organization of the Republican Party. The Board shall guide and coordinate political activities in general election campaigns throughout the County under the stewardship of the County Chairman. The County Chairman shall preside over the executive committee meetings and shall prevail as to notice of the meeting quorum and voting. All members of the Board of Directors shall have the right to vote.

#### **ARTICLE IV – Officers**

Section 1. The Officers of the MCRC shall consist of the County Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

The County Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be elected at the annual meeting called in accordance with law as described in Title 19.

Section 2. At any election where there is more than one candidate for one or more Officers, voting machines shall be used (if at all possible).

Section 3. In any election where there are more than two (2) candidates for the same Officer, the winner shall be the one receiving more than fifty (50%) percent of the votes cast for that office. If none of the candidates receive more than fifty (50%) percent of the votes for the first ballot, another ballot shall be taken between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes from the first ballot.

Section 4. Each candidate nominated may have one (1) challenger for each machine.

Section 5. Election of the Officers shall be supervised by the Monmouth County Board of Elections.

Section 6. Duties of the Officers. The County Chairman shall preside at all meetings and shall be responsible for the direction of the MCRC. The County Chairman shall designate the Treasurer and Secretary of the County Committee, which Officers shall serve at his/her pleasure. The County Chairman shall also be responsible for presiding over the Board of Directors. The County Chairman shall appoint such other committees as he or she may, from time to time, deem necessary.

In addition to the rights and duties imposed by law, the County Chairman shall exercise and discharge those rights and duties conferred by the by-laws and by resolutions adopted in conformance therewith. In the absence or inability of the County Chairman to serve, the Vice Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the MCRC and shall exercise all the powers and duties of the County Chairman. The County Chairman shall name a campaign Treasurer and campaign

Depository and shall file the name and address of same with the Election Law Enforcement Commission. The County Chairman shall also be responsible for appointing the liaisons to the Board of Directors as set forth above.

The County Chairman may extend or relax any deadlines set forth in these by-laws if, in his opinion, it shall be in the best interests of MCRC and would further the principals as set forth above.

The County Chairman shall call all meetings of the MCRC and instruct the Secretary to send notices for same. The Treasurer shall have custody of all committee funds and shall maintain regular accounts thereof and shall report on the condition of accounts at each committee meeting and at any additional time requested to do so by the County Chairman. Committee Funds are to be deposited in a bank designated by the County Chairman. Funds are to be withdrawn only by checks signed by the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall timely file with the Election Law Enforcement Commission such reports that may be required by the “New Jersey Campaign Contribution and Expenditures Reporting Act”, N.J.S.A.19:44A-1 et seq. The Treasurer’s report shall be audited by a qualified person or persons designated by the County Chairman. Such audit shall be conducted during the month preceding the annual meeting month and the results shall be reported at the annual convention. An audit must precede any change in the office of the Treasurer.

Section 7. Meetings. The annual meeting of the MCRC shall be on the first Tuesday following the primary election, except when such meeting falls on a legal holiday. In the event the annual meeting falls on a legal holiday, said meeting shall be held on the day following, at an hour and place to be designated in a written notice to be mailed by the County Chairman of the outgoing MCRC to each member elect.

Such other meetings that the County Chairman shall call shall be held for the purposes of filling vacancies and conducting that business which is determined to be appropriate by the County Chairman of the MCRC.

At each meeting of the MCRC, a quorum of twenty-five (25%) percent of those eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum. Only those members present and eligible to vote at a duly constituted meeting shall be entitled to whether any questions posing examinations of resolutions, except a resolution to alter, amend or revise the constitution or by-laws.

Section 8. County Convention – All members of the MCRC shall receive notice to all Conventions called by the County Chairman. In the event that there are any positions to be filled for elected office, a candidate for said position shall submit a letter of intent to the County Chairman not less than 14 days prior to the Convention. A Steering Committee may be established by the Chair who will set the rules for its operation and determine the composition of the Committee. Prospective candidates for elected offices may be required to appear before the Steering Committee to propose their qualifications. Incumbents will not be required to appear before the Steering Committee. When running for an open seat, endorsements from ten (10) voting members of the County Committee must be attached to a letter of intent. No more than half of the County Committee endorsements required when running for an open seat can be from

one municipality. When running for a County seat as an incumbent, endorsements from twenty-five (25) voting members of the County Committee must be attached to a letter of intent. No more than half of the County Committee endorsements required when running for a County seat as an incumbent can be from one municipality. When challenging an incumbent who holds a County seat, endorsements from forty (40) voting members of the County Committee must be attached to a letter of intent. No more than one-third of the County Committee endorsements required when challenging an incumbent who holds a County seat can be from one municipality. When running as an incumbent member of the New Jersey Legislature, endorsements from ten (10) voting members of the County Committee must be attached to a letter of intent. No more than half of the County Committee endorsements required when running as an incumbent member of the New Jersey Legislature can be from one municipality. When challenging an incumbent member of the New Jersey Legislature, endorsements from twenty-five (25) voting members of the County Committee must be attached to a letter of intent. No more than half of the County Committee endorsements required when challenging an incumbent member of the New Jersey Legislature can be from one municipality. Any candidates for statewide offices or congressional offices within the County shall be subject to the same rules as if they were running for a County seat. No write-in votes will be permitted on the day of the Convention, nor will any nominations be permitted from the floor. Any elected member of the MCRC, recognized by law, may be able to address the Convention under rules as designated by the County Chairman. All individuals wishing to speak are required to register with the County Chairman prior to or simultaneously with the commencement of the Convention. In the event an individual speaking is ruled out of order by the County Chairman, the individual shall cease and desist from any further discussion.

The County Chairman shall be the Convention Chairman and shall appoint any teller, sergeant-at-arms, and any other necessary individuals for the proper function of the Convention.

All Convention delegates must be duly elected members of the MCRC. Votes for legislative district candidates will be cast by those delegates from those municipalities comprising the district. Votes for county wide offices will be cast by all municipalities. Every candidate for office, or his duly appointed agent, wishing support of the County Convention must appear and request support at the Convention. This includes all incumbents. Robert's Rules of Order will be parliamentary authority on rules not governed by law, by-laws or rules adopted by the committee.

Section 9. Adoption and Amendment – These by-laws will take effect immediately upon the adoption of the majority of members of the MCRC voting at a committee meeting. These by-laws may be amended by a vote of members of the MCRC, provided said amendment shall have been submitted to the County Chairman and Executive Board in writing. Should any of the provisions of these Bylaws be ruled invalid, all other valid provisions shall stand.