

The Bylaws of the Bell County Republican Party of Texas

Article I: Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Bell County Republican Party Executive Committee, hereinafter referred to as the County Executive Committee (CEC).

Article II: Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of the CEC shall be:

- (a) to establish general policy of the Republican Party in the county, subject to direction of the biennial County/Senatorial District Convention
- (b) to represent the Republican Party of this county, state, and nation, promoting the Party's candidates
- (c) to cooperate in carrying out programs initiated by the Republican Party of Texas, including but not limited to:
 - 1. conducting a Republican Primary in as many election precincts within the county as practicable, but, at a minimum, having a voting location in each County Commissioners precinct; and
 - 2. organizing a coordinated effort, including Get-Out-The-Vote, preceding each general and primary election, to publicize the Party's candidates.
- (d) to provide infrastructure for competitive primary and local elections
- (e) to foster debate of issues within the party

Section 2. The CEC is charged with the responsibility of observing all laws of the State of Texas and these United States in fulfilling the purposes stated in this Article.

Article III: Members

Section 1. The voting members of the CEC when conducting official business required by the Texas Election Code shall be the Precinct Chairs and, in the case of a tie, the County Chair. Officers, Coordinators, and Committee Members and Chairs who are not Precinct Chairs may serve as ex-officio members of the CEC, in a non-voting capacity.

Section 2. To qualify to hold the office of Precinct Chair, a person must be a qualified voter residing within the bounds of the entity represented. Holders of elected public office at the county, state, or federal level or candidates for such offices are disqualified from serving as Precinct Chairs.

- (a) The Bell County Republican Party will invite any person applying for appointment as a precinct chair to sign the Republican Oath of Affiliation if they have not voted in a Republican primary election in Texas.

Section 3. The term of office shall be for two (2) years, commencing on the twentieth (20th) day after the Run-Off Primary Election Day, as provided for in Section 171.022(c) of the Texas Election Code.

Section 4. A Precinct Chair or Officer may resign by providing their resignation in writing to the County Chair and Secretary.

Section 5. Removal or disciplinary action of a Precinct Chair or Officer may be initiated by the CEC with a 3/5ths vote in accordance with Republican Party of Texas Rule 8n. Any disciplinary action must be in accordance with Republican Party of Texas Rule 8o.

Section 6. A Precinct Chair may be removed from Office for abandonment for failing to attend 4 or more consecutive county executive committee (CEC) meetings in accordance with Section 171.029 of the Texas Election Code. Removal must follow the procedure for removal in accordance with Section 171.029 of the Texas Election Code.

Section 7. Any vacancy in the office of County Chair or Precinct Chair shall be filled by the CEC.

- (a) **County Chair.** A majority of the total membership of the CEC must participate in filling a vacancy and the person selected must receive a majority of the votes cast of those members participating in the election, as provided by Section 171.024(a) of the Texas Election Code.
- (b) **Precinct Chair.** One-fourth (1/4) of the total membership of the CEC, excluding vacancies, shall constitute a quorum for filling a vacancy and the person selected must receive a majority of the votes cast of those members participating in the election, as provided by Section 171.024(c) of the Texas Election Code. Before being seated as Precinct Chair, they shall be sworn in to serve.

Article IV: County Managing Committee

Section 1. The County Managing Committee shall consist of five mandatory positions (County Chair, County Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Parliamentarian) and any other position that the County Chair creates. The Managing Committee shall also hold regular meetings to coordinate the activities of the Republican Party.

Section 2. Officers of the CEC shall be the County Chair, County Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Parliamentarian, and all other positions created by the County Chair. All officers and coordinators except the Secretary shall be appointed by the County Chair and in no case shall an officer position be vacant for more than ninety (90) days. The Secretary shall be elected by the CEC following commencement of term of office.

Section 3. The term of office of the officers and coordinators shall be concurrent with that of the CEC, except in the event of a vacancy in the office of County Chair (at which time the appointed officers and coordinators shall serve only until election of a new County Chair).

Section 4. A vacancy in the office of County Chair shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of Section 171.025 of the Texas Election Code. A vacancy in the office of Secretary shall be filled by the CEC following notice of the vacancy, or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

Section 5. Duties of officers and coordinators shall be those prescribed by the parliamentary

authority adopted by the CEC, by the County Chair, and by these bylaws, as listed below:

- (a) **County Chair.** The County Chair shall be the CEC and County Managing Committee's presiding officer and official spokesperson. He or she shall perform these duties required by the statute and by these bylaws and by the Rules of the Republican Party of Texas. He or she shall be an ex officio member of all county Standing and Special Committees. The County Chair may be a member of the Texas Republican County Chairs Association and any assessments or dues are to be paid by the CEC. The County Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer shall jointly establish the annual budget including but not limited to a budget for office administration and supplies at headquarters. The budget is subject to ratification by the CEC.
- (b) **County Vice Chair.** The County Vice Chair shall assist the Chair as requested in the performance of any non-statutory duties of the office. The Vice Chair may not perform any statutory duties as outlined by state law but may assist in any other functions of the County Chair, including appointment to committees. The Vice Chair shall be an ex-officio member of all committees in a non-voting capacity unless they have been appointed as a member of the committee by the Chair.
- (c) **Treasurer.** The Treasurer may exercise all powers and duties of that office prior to and following confirmation. The Treasurer in combination with the County Chair shall be custodian of all funds belonging to the Party and shall submit a monthly report of net income by category and expenses by category to the CEC, including a monthly report of disbursements and receipts to the CEC. He/She shall supervise a system of bookkeeping in which the accounts correspond to identical categories in the budget, the records of which shall be in safekeeping at the Bell County Republican Party Headquarters and available for inspection by any member of the CEC. The Treasurer shall be responsible for filing with the appropriate authorities all statements and reports required by state or federal law. At the end of their term of office, they shall turn over to their successor all funds, books, and other papers of the Party. The Treasurer shall be on the Bell County Republican Party Accounts as the "Secondary Person" with the authority of paying bills and depositing donations.
- (d) **Secretary.** The Secretary shall carry out the usual duties of that office, keeping an up-to-date role of the CEC's members and ensuring that each member receives timely notices of meetings. A permanent file containing minutes of the CEC meetings shall be maintained. In the event of a vacancy in the office of County Chair, the Secretary shall call a meeting of the CEC for the purpose of electing a new County Chair, as provided for in Section 171.025 of the Texas Election Code. The Secretary is authorized to receive applications for a place on the Primary Ballot, as provided for in Section 172.022(a)(2) of the Texas Election Code. The Secretary shall have signing authority on all bank accounts.
- (e) **Parliamentarian.** The Parliamentarian shall advise the Chair or the Chair of any committee meeting regarding parliamentary procedure.

Article V: Meetings

Section 1. The CEC shall regularly meet bi-monthly in Primary Election years and quarterly otherwise or more frequently if required.

Section 2. In each even-numbered year, as required by the Republican Party of Texas Rule 8e, one of the regular meetings shall be an organizational meeting to be held within forty-five (45) days after the term of office begins for the County Chair and Precinct Chairs. (The term of office begins twenty (20) days after the Primary Runoff Election) The County Chair of the incoming term shall be responsible for calling the meeting; however, if the County Chair does not call the meeting within the forty-five (45) days, then one-fourth (1/4) or fifty (50) of the Precinct Chairs, whichever is fewer, may, by written demand, call an organizational meeting. Notice of the organizational meeting and a copy of any proposed Bylaws and/or Rules shall either be mailed via the USPS or may be emailed (but only if the precinct chair's email address is known), and shall be posted on the county party website, if available, and it may be sent prior to the end of the previous term. Delivery will be to the last known address of the members of the executive committee at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting. Such notice shall state the time, date, and location of the meeting and the name(s) of the person(s) issuing the call. The agenda of the organizational meeting shall include, but not be limited to, the swearing in of the newly elected executive committee members and the adoption of Bylaws and/or Rules for the biennium. Failure to adopt bylaws and/or rules for the current biennium by a majority of those present and voting shall enact the previous biennium's bylaws and/or rules.

Section 3. Regular meetings shall be called by the County Chair with a minimum of fourteen (14) days' notice to each CEC member. Emergency meetings may be called by the County Chair with a minimum of five (5) days' notice to each CEC member.

Section 4. A special meeting must be held on petition of a minimum of twenty-five percent of Precinct Chairs or upon call of the Chair. Notice of such meeting must be provided to every member of the CEC and held no earlier than five days after presentation of the petition to the Secretary and/or County Chair.

Section 5. Emergency meetings can be held digitally if there is agreement between all the officers and a quorum of the CEC is present.

Section 6. All meeting notices must be in writing (digital or analog) and include the date, time, and location of the meeting. A notice must include a statement of any business requiring a vote of the CEC to be conducted at the meeting. Official action may be taken only on items listed on the notice unless unanimous consent is received from CEC members present at the meeting to waive such requirement.

Section 7. No county executive committee meeting shall be held two (2) days prior, during, or two (2) days after the week of the biennial State Convention or during any calendar week in which committee meetings or general sessions of the quadrennial National Convention are scheduled.

Section 8. In accordance with Republican Party of Texas Rule 8g, all meetings of the CEC including meetings of any, sub-committee, or ad hoc committee shall be open to any member of that CEC, and they shall have the right to appear before any such committee, sub-committee, or ad hoc committee and make recommendations for the committee's consideration or testify concerning any item under purview of the committee. This rule does not preclude the committee from going into executive session; however, such executive session(s) shall be open to any member of the CEC including ex-officio members.

Section 9. Quorum, in accordance with Republican Party of Texas Rule 9

- (a) Non-Statutory Business and Filling Vacancies - One-fourth (1/4) of the membership, excluding vacancies, shall constitute a quorum for conduct of non-statutory business.
- (b) Statutory Business – A quorum for conduct of statutory business (called for by the Texas Election Code) shall consist of those members present.

Section 10. At every CEC meeting the County Chair shall provide a written summary report of significant actions, decisions, and business conducted in accordance with Republican Party of Texas rule 8q.

Article VI: Position Resolutions

Section 1. To pass a position resolution for the Republican Party, a Precinct Chair or Officer must present the resolution at a CEC meeting. This will constitute the first reading of the resolution.

Section 2. The Secretary will send a copy of the resolution to all Precinct Chairs and officers within forty-eight (48) hours of the first reading of the resolution. The Secretary will also send out the resolution with the meeting agenda for the following CEC meeting.

Section 3. At the next CEC meeting, the resolution will be debated with a minimum of one (1) Precinct Chair speaking for and one (1) Precinct Chair speaking against the resolution, unless no Precinct Chairs wish to speak against the resolution. Each speaker will be limited to two (2) minutes. This will constitute the second reading of the resolution.

Section 4. After the second reading of the resolution, the CEC will vote on the resolution. A 3/4ths vote of the CEC is required to pass the resolution. If the resolution passes, the Secretary will send a press release to all major media organizations in the county with the text of the final resolution.

Section 5. The notice requirement of this Article may only be suspended with unanimous consent.

Article VII: Endorsements

Section 1. An endorsement is the formal act of giving public approval or support to a candidate

Section 2. The CEC will not endorse an opposed candidate in a primary.

Section 3. In a nonpartisan election where only one candidate is a Republican, the CEC can endorse a candidate with a majority vote. The endorsement must be on the agenda.

Section 4. In a nonpartisan election where more than one candidate is a Republican, the CEC can endorse a candidate with a 4/5ths vote.

- (a) All Republican candidates must be invited to speak at a CEC meeting.
- (b) All Republican candidates must be given fourteen (14) days' notice of their invitation to speak at the CEC meeting.

(c) All Republican candidates must be given at least five (5) minutes to speak.

(d) Notice of the vote to endorse must be provided on the agenda. The notice requirement of this Section may only be suspended with unanimous consent.

Section 5. For purposes of this article, “Republican” is defined as an individual who has voted in the Republican primary at least once in the past four primary elections and who has not voted in any other primary or participated in any other party convention during that time.

Article VIII: Spending

Section 1. All spending over \$1,000 must be approved by the CEC.

Section 2. The chair may spend over \$1,000 when deemed appropriate and time-sensitive which shall be reported to the CEC at the next meeting during the Treasurer’s Report.

Section 3. Any purchases outside of normal operating expenses must have an invoice or receipt presented to the Treasurer prior to receiving reimbursement.

Article IX: Voting

Section 1. In general, votes will be taken by voice, in a traditional aye-or-nay format.

Section 2. Prior to any vote, any voting member can request that the vote be taken by roll call vote or secret ballot. Any request must have a second to be valid.

Section 3. In any vote among three or more candidates, a traditional run-off system will be utilized where the top 2 candidates will move to the run-off election.

Article IX: Committees

Section 1. The County Chair shall appoint the Standing Committees, as are deemed necessary to carry out policies of the local Party from the pool of officers or Precinct Chairs.

Section 2. Each committee is authorized to develop procedures for conducting the business within that committee’s jurisdiction, subject to review and amendment by the full CEC.

Section 3. A committee member or members may be removed from a committee upon request of the Committee Chair or the County Chair.

Section 4. All committee assignments and removals must be ratified by the CEC with a simple majority vote at the next meeting.

Section 5. Prior to Events or Announcements being posted on the County Party website, they must be reviewed and approved by the County Chair and the Website Manager.

- (a) An Event or Announcement that is requested to be posted must be submitted through the County GOP email address and to the County Chair and the Website Manager.
- (b) All requests must be submitted 10 days prior to the requested posting date.
- (c) Any request that fails approval for posting, the individual requesting shall be notified

within a reasonable timeframe, but no later than 3 days prior to the scheduled posting date.

Section 6. All Committees shall produce a report for the CEC if any business has been conducted between CEC meetings.

Article X: Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The rules contained in the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the CEC and its committees and subcommittees in all cases to which they are applicable and which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules promulgated by the Republican Party of Texas, any state or federal statutes, and the Constitutions of the United States and Texas.

Article XI: Amendment of Bylaws

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3rds vote of the members of the CEC present and voting at a properly called meeting of the CEC by giving notice at the previous regular meeting.

Section 2. The notice requirement of this Article may be suspended by unanimous consent.

Adopted: June 17th, 2024

Addie Baird, County Chair