

# **BYLAWS OF THE HIDALGO COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY**

Herein adopted by the Hidalgo County Executive Committee on 10 May 2011

## **ARTICLE I – NAME**

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the Hidalgo County Republican Executive Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

Section 1. The purpose of the Executive Committee shall be:

- A. To establish general policy of the Republican Party in Hidalgo County;
- B. To represent the Republican Party of Texas and the nation, articulating the Party's positions and 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 Commissioner's precinct and;
  - 2) Organizing a coordinated effort preceding each general election to publicize the Party's candidates.

Section 2. The Hidalgo County Republican Party Executive Committee shall not endorse a candidate appearing on the Republican Primary, Primary Runoff, or Special Election ballot. This does not preclude an Executive Committee member endorsing a Republican candidate independently.

Section 3. The Executive Committee 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. The Executive Committee will comply with the Rules of the Republican Party of Texas.

## **ARTICLE III – MEMBERS**

Section 1. The voting members of the Executive Committee when conducting official business required by the Texas Election Code shall be the County Chairman and the Precinct Chairmen. Officers who are non-Precinct Chairmen may serve as ex-officio (non-voting) members of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. To qualify to hold the office of Precinct Chairman, or County Chairman, a candidate must be a qualified voter residing within the bounds of the entity represented and cannot be a holder of elected public office at the county, state, or federal level or candidate for such office, and during the voting year in which primary elections are held, must have voted in the Republican Primary.

Section 3. The term of office shall be for two (2) years commencing on the twentieth (20th) day after the General or runoff Primary Election day as provided for in the Texas Election Code.

Section 4. The Executive Committee at a properly called meeting may fill a vacancy of precinct chairman. A majority of the total membership of the Executive Committee must participate in filling a vacancy and the person selected must receive a majority of the votes cast of those executive Committee members participating in the election, as provided by Section 171.024 (a) of the Texas Election Code. [See Section 171.024 (c) for exception]. After a vacancy is filled, the county chairman shall promptly deliver written notice of the newly elected precinct chairman's name and address to the state chairman and to the county clerk.

Section 5. A Candidate Committee shall conduct interviews of all persons wishing to fill vacancies. The recommendations of the committee shall be reported to the Executive Committee. The County Chairman shall appoint the chairman of the Candidate Committee, who in turn shall appoint members to the committee.

Section 6. If a precinct or county chair fails to perform statutory duties under the Election Code, or fails to attend four or more consecutive meetings of the County Executive Committee, they may be removed from office for abandonment. (Senate Bill 1072)

#### **ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS**

Section 1. Officers of the Executive Committee shall be the County Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary. Any other offices shall be appointed by the County Chairman as needed. The County Chairman shall appoint the Treasurer within 60 days of assuming office. The Secretary shall be elected by voting members of the Executive Committee at a regular meeting when the office is vacant. Appointed officers shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the voting members of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The term of office of the officers shall be concurrent with that of the Executive Committee, except that in the event of a vacancy in the office of County Chairman, the appointive officers shall serve only until election of a new County Chairman.

Section 3. A vacancy in the office of County Chairman shall be filled within 20 days of said vacancy, in accordance with Texas Election Code. A vacancy in the office of secretary shall be filled following notice of the vacancy, at any meeting with proper notification to the Executive Committee members. A majority of the total membership of the Executive Committee must participate in filling a vacancy and the person selected must receive a majority of the votes cast of those executive Committee members participating in the election

Section 4. Duties of officers shall be those prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Executive Committee and by these bylaws as listed below:

- A. The County Chairman shall be the Executive Committee's presiding officer and official spokesman. He shall perform those duties required by statute and by these bylaws and by the Rules of the Republican Party of Texas. He shall be an ex-officio member of all county Standing and Special Committees. In the event of his absence, the Chairman will designate a precinct chairman or party officer who shall serve as Acting Chairman until the Chairman resumes his duties.
- B. The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping systematic records and for complying with any applicable state and federal statutes in reporting contributions, and expenditures, as well as paying all bills in a timely manner. The Treasurer shall prepare a quarterly report of financial condition for presentation to the executive Committee. The financial records of the Hidalgo County Republican Party shall be audited annually, and the state of all funds and accounts (corporate, private, or individual contributors, and primary fund) of the County Republican Party shall be listed, and reported to the Executive Committee in the Annual Audit Report and in the Treasurer's Report at each regular meeting to the executive Committee.
- C. The Secretary shall carry out the usual duties of that office, keeping an up-to-date roll of the executive Committee's members and ensuring that each member receives timely notices of meetings. A permanent file containing minutes of the executive Committee meetings shall be maintained. In the event of a vacancy in the office of County Chairman, the Secretary shall call a meeting of the executive Committee for the purpose of electing a new Chairman as provided for in the appropriate section(s) of the Texas Election Code.

#### **ARTICLE V – MEETINGS**

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall meet at such times as required by the Texas Election Code and in no event shall there be less than one meeting held each quarter. The Executive Committee shall meet all statutory meetings and in even-numbered election years shall meet monthly. In odd-numbered years, the Executive Committee shall meet statutory requirements of meetings, but it may meet more than those required under the Texas Election Code.

Section 2. In the year in which the Executive Committee is elected, one of the regular quarterly meetings shall be an organizational meeting, to be held within forty-five days of the new Chairman taking office, for the purpose of the taking of oath by the new officers, adoption or amendment of the bylaws, and other business pertinent to organizing the Executive Committee.

According to the Rules of the Texas Republican Party, the new Chairman will take office twenty days after the General or Runoff Primary Election and, thus, be authorized to call the organizational meeting.

Section 3. Regular meetings shall be called with not less than three (3) business days notification by telecommunication or written communication. The agenda shall be presented to all Executive Committee members with notification of said meeting. The designated officer shall request acknowledgement of the telecommunication.

Section 4. Special meeting may be called by the chairman or by petition of one-fourth (25%) of the voting members of the Executive Committee membership to the Secretary. The call of a special meeting shall be made to all members of the Executive Committee at least three (3) days prior to the meeting date and shall set forth the time and place of the meeting, together with an agenda detailing the business to be conducted. The notification can be by USPS, e-mail, phone, or fax. Acknowledgement shall be requested for e-mail, fax, or phone messages.

Section 5. Emergency meetings shall be called with not less than three (3) days notification, whenever practicable, by telecommunication or written communication. The agenda shall be presented to all Executive members with notification of said meeting. The agenda is non-debatable and non-amendable.

Section 6. A quorum for conduct of business shall be one-fourth (25%) of the voting membership of the Executive Committee. A quorum for statutory meeting shall be those members present; however if one-fourth (25%) of the total membership is not present at a statutory meeting, only business required by the Election Code shall be transacted. (Exception see Article III, Section 4).

Section 7. Voting shall be by personal attendance only. A person may not participate in an Executive Committee meeting as a proxy. (Texas Election Code 171.026).

## **ARTICLE VI – PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY**

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

#### **ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS**

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Executive Committee present and voting at a properly called meeting of the Executive Committee by the Secretary giving notice at the previous regular meeting, or mailing written notice to each Executive Committee member at least thirty (30) days in advance of a regularly called meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – MISCELLANEOUS**

Section 1. The County Chairman shall maintain a current list of the:

- A. name
- B. mailing address
- C. phone number
- D. email address (if available)
- E. precinct number

of every Republican Precinct Chair who was elected in the Primary, the Primary Runoff, or was appointed by the majority of the County Executive Committee participating in the election to make said appointment to fill a Precinct Chair vacancy. The list shall be updated within seven (7) business days of an election changing the status of the list and shall be made available at reproduction costs (not to exceed 50 cents per page) or by email to any Republican Precinct Chair, Republican Party Official, Republican Elected Officer Holder, or Republican Candidate for Elective Office of the county requesting such. [The Rules of the Republican Party of Texas, Rule 8 (g)].

Amended: 7 July 2016