

FRAMEWORK FOR
**MODEL BYLAWS FOR THE OHIO
REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE**

Articles of Governance

Article I: Name, Purpose, and Strategic Objectives

- Requires members to define the party by stipulating that members develop an organization's name, mission, vision, legislative objectives, and an adoption of short-term and long-term goals, priorities, and values.

Article II: Power of the Purse

- Specifies that the Central Committee must approve all budgets and purchases as the controlling committee.

Article III: Power of Endorsement

- Specifies that the Central Committee must be the only endorsement making body as the controlling committee.

Article IV: Power to enter into Litigation

- Specifies the sole power of entering into litigation is by a 2/3rd vote of the Central Committee as the controlling committee.

Article V: Standing Rules

- Are required types of actions including but not limited to: detailed procedures, scheduling, notification procedures, and voting protocols for meetings to ensure transparency and member engagement. Standing rules are made with a **simple majority and may be suspended by a simple majority at any time.**

Article VI: Special Rules

- Are permanent rules that are superior to Robert's rules of Order that guides the development of an agenda for meetings, and aids in efficient discussions and debates for meetings.

Article VII: Meetings

- Specifies types, scheduling, notification procedures, and voting protocols for meetings to ensure transparency and member engagement. For example:
 - *Special Meetings*
 - *Emergency Meetings*
 - *Virtual Meetings*
 - *Subcommittee Meetings*

Article VIII: Action without a Meeting

- Provides for members to take action without a meeting by petition

Article IX: Officers and Duties

- Describes roles, responsibilities, elections, term limits, and succession plans for officers.

Article X: Executive Committee

- Defines the composition, powers, and limitations of the Executive Committee, emphasizing its advisory role to the Central Committee.

Article XI: Standing Committees

- Discusses various committee types, their formation, responsibilities, and governance to ensure effective operational oversight. **For example:**
 - *Audit and compliance (Chairman does not make appointments and members are picked through a lottery.)*
 - *Human Resources review committee (Chairman does not make appointments and members are picked through a lottery)*
 - *Budget Oversight, (Chairman does not make appointments and members are picked through a lottery)*
 - *Party Membership and Expansion Committee (Chairman appoints 10 county central committee chairs and 10 members of the Central Committee)*
 - *Fundraising Committee (Chairman makes appointments of Central Committee Members)*
 - *Platform Committee, (Appointee by the House and Senate Republican Caucus, appointee from the Governor, Chairman of the Party, Party*

*CEO and 6 members of the Central Committee chosen by lottery.
picked by lottery.)*

- *Platform Plank Committees (appointments made through lottery)*
- *County Party Relations (10 County Central Committee members by lottery and 10 chairmen from county central committee by the party chairman)*

Article XII: Ad Hoc Committees

- Discusses various committee types, their formation, responsibilities, and governance to ensure effective operational oversight.

Article XIII: Platform Plank Committees Committees

- Discusses various committee types, their formation, responsibilities, and governance to ensure effective operational oversight.

Article XIV: Elections

- Provides comprehensive guidelines for conducting fair and transparent elections within the Committee and for its candidates running for public office.

Article XV: Financial Management and Budgeting

- Outlines practices for financial oversight including budgeting, financial reporting, and auditing to maintain accountability.

Article XVI: Resolutions

- Details the types of resolutions and the process for proposing and adopting resolutions affirming the right of the organization to conduct all business.

Article XVII: Determination of Qualified County Parties

- The State Central Committee may promulgate conditions and requirements that County Parties must achieve to qualify for programs and benefits.

Article XVIII: Required Ancillary Documentation

- For example:
 - *Accounting Procedures*

- *Marketing and Press Release Procedures*
- *Purchasing Procedures*
- *Employee Manual*
- *Non-Disclosure Agreements*
- *Organizational Chart*
- *Job Descriptions*
- *New Hire Orientation*
- *Technology Training Manuals*
- *Campaign tracking Manual*
- *Non-Discrimination policy*
- *Whistleblower policy*
- *Tribunal policies and procedures*
- *Safety policy and procedures*

Article XIX: Membership

Members are elected for 4 year terms - State Central Committee Women are elected in presidential election years and Men are elected in gubernatorial election years.

Article XX: Amendments

- Details the process for proposing and adopting amendments to the bylaws, ensuring flexibility and responsiveness

Articles of Central Committee Member Rights

Article XXI: Membership right to inspect the Financial Books

- Guarantees any member of the Central Committee the right to inspect all accounting functions and procedures and have access to detailed reports.

Article XXII: Expectation of Leadership to always act in Good Faith

- Guarantees any member of the Central Committee the right to remove leadership that acts disingenuous and does not provide disclosure in all their dealings.

Article XXIII: Legal Counsel

- Guarantees any member of the Central Committee the right to have legal counsel present at all meetings and to allow legal counsel to act as their proxy in their presence.

Article XXIV: Obligation of Parliamentarians

- Guarantees that any parliamentarian is to take an oath to represent the entire membership of the central committee and that the parliamentarian may be queried by members at any time (point of information) to clarify parliamentary procedures.

Article XXV: Membership

- Details criteria for membership eligibility, rights, responsibilities, and procedures for engagement and participation.

Article XXVI: Suspension of Bylaws

- Details the conditions under which specific bylaws may be temporarily suspended during meetings for procedural flexibility.

Article XXVII: Fiduciary Responsibilities

- Stipulates that members have the right and duty to act as fiduciaries for all registered Republicans and donors, maintaining a trust-based relationship.

Article XXVIII: Endorsements and Evaluations

- Central committee members have the right to detailed and total transparency of all endorsement and evaluations and recommendations thereof. Details the process and criteria for official party endorsements and evaluations.

Article XXIX: Access to Party Resources and Campaign Infrastructure

- Establishes guidelines for equitable access to party resources and mandates the provision of campaign infrastructure resources to support party candidates effectively.

Article XXX: Resolution of Grievances and Disputes

- Specifies procedures for handling grievances and disputes within the organization.

Article XXXI: Litigation

- Provides the procedures and necessary authorizations for entering into litigation to protect the party's interests

Article XXXII: Right to Nominate

- Provides all Central Committee members the power to nominate members and if allowed, non members to fill positions.

Article XXXIII: Right to issue Writs

- With a simple majority in concurrence members may issue writs to county central committees, to its executive committee and subcommittees, to officers of the State Central Committee and to any members of the State Central Committee.
- A Writ of Mandamus is a command mandating an action, A Writ of Prohibition is a command prohibiting or forbidding an action or banning something, Writ of Certiorari is a command to review and investigate something, Subpoena is a request to testify or present, A Writ of Quo Warranto challenges the authority of a County Party or subcommittee to do something.

Article XXXIV: Right to Information

- Central Committee members have the right and expectation of:
 - Disclosure of how much money and in-kind contributions were made in expenditures to candidates and issues.
 - Disclosure of how much money was spent on educational initiatives.
 - Disclosure of how much money was spent on registration drives.
 - Disclosure of how much money was spent on wages, benefits, and reimbursements.
 - Disclosure of how much money was spent on overhead with a detailed breakdown.
 - How much money was raised or lost on each fundraiser.
 - Access to a list of all donors to the party and the amount of their donation in a given period.
 - The reason for transfers made between accounts.
 - Review of all contracts made with vendors and providers.
 - Disclosure of all agreements made with candidates, other County Central Committees, the RNC, the State Central Committee and other State Central Committees.

Articles of Registered Republican Rights

Article XXXV: Political Engagement

- For example:
 - *Mandates activity in State and County Races and participating in Congressional and U.S. Senate Races.*
 - *Mandates active involvement in local political races at various levels including city, village, and school board races to enhance party influence.*

Article XXXVI: Record Keeping and Document Retention

- Specifies requirements for maintaining records, including types of documents to retain, duration of retention, and methods for secure storage to ensure legal compliance and historical documentation.

Article XXXVII: Parliamentary Procedure and Bylaw Interpretation

- Specifies the parliamentary procedures adopted and guidelines for interpreting bylaws.

Article XXXVIII: Obligation of Republican Candidates to Debate

- Specifies that there is an obligation for Republican candidates to participate in debate.

Article XXXIX: The Right to be Nominated

- For example:
 - *Provides for the right to any [name of County] Ohioan of Republican affiliation to be nominated to positions within the party respecting residency requirements and that have voted as Republican in at least four primaries in total and within the last two primary elections before being nominated. Provides for a simple majority of the central committee to approve these types of appointments*
 - *Alternatively, Republicans less than or equal to 30 years of age that have not voted in the required number of primaries may be nominated either by a petition of no less than 20 members of the central committee or upon signing a binding loyalty contract.*

Article XL: Right to Participate in a Convention

- Provides for the right of Registered Republicans to vote in a Republican Convention.

Article XLI: Provision for the Requirement of a Party Register

- An online party register contains at a minimum the minutes of each meeting of the central committee and all sub committees
- Other things normally included in a Party Register:
 - *All Standing and Special rules*
 - *The Bylaws*
 - *The Platform*
 - *All Procedures*
 - *All Schedules*
 - *All financial reports*
 - *Short term and long term goals*
 - *Mission Statement*
 - *Vision Statement*
 - *Legislative Objectives*
 - *Other Stated Goals*
 - *Stated Priorities*
 - *Employees and staff*
 - *Press Releases*
 - *Announcements*
 - *Notices*

Article XLII: The Right of Volunteers to Earn Party Points

- An example of providing a benefit and incentive to do volunteer work and actively participate in the party.
 - *For every hour of volunteer work for the party 1 pt is awarded.*
 - *Optionally, party points can be purchased at \$30 per point.*
 - *Party Points can be used at the County Convention at a cost of 1pt per voting token.*
 - *This way those that work the hardest or pay the most amount of money have the most influence in the future of the party when voting at the county convention.*

Article XLIII: Alliances

- Memorandum of Understanding for educational services
- For example:

- *Evangelicals and other religious organizations*
- *Veterans*
- *Republican Women*
- *Young Republicans*
- *Younger Republicans*
- *Minorities*

Articles of Ethics and Transparency

Article XLIV: Conflict of Interest and Ethics

- Establishes conflict of interest policies and ethical standards.

Article XLV: Conduct, Whistleblower Protection, and Penalties

- Sets conduct guidelines, whistleblower protections, and outlines penalties for breaches of bylaws or misconduct.

Article XLVI: Legal Compliance

- Requires adherence to regulations set by the FEC, Secretary of State, Ohio laws, and adherence to the bylaws.

Article XLVII: Internal Compliance Audit and Review of Procedures

- Requires adherence to regulations set by the FEC, Secretary of State, Ohio laws, and adherence to the bylaws.

Article XLVIII: Internal Financial Audit and Review of Procedures

- Requires the Compliance Audit Committee to review the procedures of the organization and an independent audit at least once every four years.

Article XLIX: Hiring

- That nepotism will not play a part hiring volunteers or private contractors

Articles of Discipline and Penalties for Bad Behavior

Article L: Censure

- When censure is appropriate and what penalties may be imposed

Article LI: Breach of Fiduciary Responsibility

- What penalties may be imposed for a breach of Fiduciary responsibility

Article LII: Impeachment

- What penalties may be imposed for Impeachment

Article LIII: Disaffiliation/Persona Non Grata

- When can disaffiliation be used

Article LIV: Breach of Decorum and Incivility

- What penalties may be imposed for Breach of Decorum and Incivility

Articles of Qualified County Central Committee Rights

Article LV: Right of Recognition

- All qualified county parties have the right to be recognized and share in the resources provided by the party equally provided that all members of the central committee make a phone number and email address publicly available to their constituents. The State Party has a right and duty to recognize qualified county central committees before unqualified county central committees
- To become a qualified County Central Committee committees must for example:
 - *Adopt the Republican National Committee Platform if one exists.*
 - *Adopt the Ohio Republican Party Platform if one exists.*
 - *Adopt a County Party Platform.*
 - *Adopt a mission, vision, goals, and priorities*
 - *Maintain a web presence that lists the contact information for each member of the Central Committee.*
 - *Maintain the constitution of the party if one exists on the party's website and bylaws, standing rules, special rules, and all other written procedures and manuals that guide the function of the party.*
 - *Make minutes of all committee meetings available to the public except for executive sessions.*
 - *Bylaws at least require annual audit of finances and provides penalties to leadership for not accomplishing the required audit.*
 - *Give unencumbered access to county central committee members to the party's finances for review.*

- *Bylaws that provide rights to their members.*
- *Bylaws that stipulate that the meetings of the Central Committee are open to the public.*
- *Bylaws that stipulate that Central Committees meet 4 times per year.*
- *Bylaws that require budgets to not exceed 3 months.*
- *Bylaws that provide members the right to take action without a meeting by petition.*
- *Bylaws that stipulate that the County Central Committee is the controlling committee and has the sole power of the purse, endorsements, and the sole power to enter into litigation by committee vote.*
- *Adopt a whistleblower policy for members and vendors.*

Article LVI: Right to call for a State Convention

- For example:
 - *When 30 qualified county parties are in concurrence, by a vote of their central committee members, they shall have the power to compel the State Central Committee to have party convention within the following year*

Article LVII: County Party's may Form Compacts

- For example:
- County Party's may form compacts to regulate activity in an Ohio House District, an Ohio Senate District, and a U.S. Congressional Districts that exist within the boundaries of their counties. For example such Compacts give local parties the jurisdiction to determine what State Republican activities may take place within the area of the compact.

Article LVIII: Right to redress of Grievances

- *The State Central Committee, when both parties agree, shall resolve disputes as arbiters between county parties and between county central committee leadership and its members*

Article: LIX Party Platform Addendum

- *When 44 county qualified parties call for an issue to be added to the Ohio Republican Party Platform of Values, The Ohio Republican Platform of Beliefs, or the Ohio Republican Party Platform of Legislative Objectives*