

# REPUBLICAN PARTY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

## CONSTITUTION

### **Article I. Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Republican Party of Milwaukee County.

### **Article II. Purpose**

The purpose of this organization shall be to unify, under one central organization, the activities of the Republican Party of Milwaukee County, and to advance in every honorable way, fundamental Republican principles and policies. As a voluntary organization, this organization shall cooperate and assist in all county, state, and federal elections, to the end that our republican form of government, as created under the Constitution of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, be preserved for all of the people.

As a constituent part of the Republican Party of Wisconsin, this organization shall direct, manage, supervise, and control the business, property, and funds of the Republican Party of Milwaukee County.

### **Article III. Membership**

Membership in this organization shall be open to all citizens of voting age who believe in the above objective, purposes, and principles of the Republican Party.

Citizens younger than voting age, residing in Milwaukee County, who believe in the above objective, purposes, and principles of the Republican Party are eligible for non-voting student membership. Student members shall receive the same mailings as full members. The Executive Committee may establish reduced dues and event fees for student members.

All members of the Executive Committee must reside in Milwaukee County.

### **Article IV. Records, Applications, & Dues**

#### ***Section 4.01 Records***

A record of every member of this organization shall be kept by an officer or employee designated by the Chairman.

#### ***Section 4.02 Applications***

All applications for membership shall be in writing, on forms approved by the Republican Party of Milwaukee County, and accompanied by payment of the annual dues then in effect.

#### ***Section 4.03 Annual Dues***

The amount of annual dues shall be established, and may be changed, from time to time by the Executive Committee.

- (a) For renewing members, membership dues shall be payable on July 1st of each year.

- (b) Membership dues received from new members will be applied to the current twelve-month period if received more than 29 days prior to the County Caucus. If received less than 30 calendar days prior to the County Caucus, the dues shall be applied to the next twelve-month period beginning July first.
- (c) Membership dues received from delinquent members will be applied to the current twelve-month period if received more than 9 calendar days prior to the County Caucus. If received less than 10 days prior to the County Caucus the dues shall be applied to the next twelve-month period beginning July first.

## **Article V. Officers**

### ***Section 5.01 Officers***

The Officers of this organization shall consist of a Chairman, a First Vice Chairman, a Second Vice Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

### ***Section 5.02 Terms***

The terms of Officers shall be as follows: The Chairman, First and Second Vice Chairmen, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected in that order at a duly constituted caucus prior to April 1st in the odd-numbered years, and shall serve until their successors are qualified and elected. Their two-year terms begin on adjournment of the Caucus at which they are elected.

### ***Section 5.03 Restrictions***

All Officers shall serve without compensation, except for the reimbursement of budgeted expenses. Such expenses shall be itemized and available to members of the Executive Committee upon request.

### ***Section 5.04 Duties***

The duties of Officers shall be as follows:

- (a) **Chairman** The Chairman shall preside at all meetings and caucuses of the Party and of the Executive Committee and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee. The Chairman shall have general supervision of the work of the organization and is responsible for the filing of all reports by the appropriate individuals as may be required by law. The Chairman, or their designees, shall have the authority to commit funds and to sign contracts as approved by the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Republican Party of Milwaukee County. The Chairman also serves as the Statutory Chairman of the Election District Committeemen.
- (b) **First Vice Chairman** The First Vice Chairman, in the absence of the Chairman, shall perform the duties of the Chairman, and other duties as the Chairman shall direct.
- (c) **Second Vice Chairman** The Second Vice Chairman, in the absence of the Chairman and First Vice Chairman, shall perform the duties of the Chairman, and other duties as the chairman shall direct.

- (d) **Secretary** The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings and caucuses, and notify the Executive Board and membership of meetings and events.
- (e) **Treasurer** The Treasurer shall receive and be custodian of all funds of the Party. The Treasurer shall keep an account of all monies received and disbursed and shall report in full as required by the Chairman or the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall, along with the Chairman, be responsible for filing all reports required by law.

## **Article VI. Executive Committee**

### **Section 6.01 Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- (a) The Officers of this organization
- (b) The duly elected Chairman of any Branch Club established under Article XII
- (c) The Immediate Past Chairman
- (d) Three Members-At-Large
- (e) The Chairman of the Finance Committee
- (f) The Chairman of the Membership Committee

### **Section 6.02 Terms**

- (a) Officers shall be members of the Executive Committee while they hold office.
- (d) The Chairmen of Branch Clubs shall be members of the Executive Committee while they hold these titles in their Branch Club.
- (c) The Members-At-Large shall be elected after the election of officers at a duly constituted county caucus prior to April 1st in odd-numbered years and shall serve until their successors are qualified and elected. Their two-year terms begin on adjournment of the County Caucus at which they were elected.
- d) The Chairmen of the Finance Committee and the Membership Committee shall be appointed as provided in Article VII to serve at the pleasure of the County Chairman and shall serve as members of the Executive Committee until his or her successor is appointed and approved by the Executive Committee.

### **Section 6.03 Vacancies**

- a) In the event of a vacancy of a member of the Executive Committee caused by death or resignation, the chairman shall appoint a replacement subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

- b) In the event of a vacancy of the Chairman, the First Vice-Chairman shall become the Chairman and appoint a new First Vice-Chairman subject to the approval from the Executive Committee.

## **Article VII. Committees**

### ***Section 7.01 Finance Committee***

The Chairman, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Finance Committee consisting of a Chairman and not less than two additional members. The Finance Committee shall raise necessary funds for carrying out Party activities and to work in close harmony and relation with the Finance Committee of the Republican Party of Wisconsin, and such other duties as the Chairman and the Executive Committee may direct.

### ***Section 7.02 Membership Committee***

The Chairman, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Membership Committee consisting of a Chairman and not less than two additional members. The Membership Committee shall work to develop and execute programs that will promote increasing and retaining the membership of the Republican Party of Milwaukee County, and to perform such other duties as the Chairman and the Executive Committee may direct.

### ***Section 7.03 Campaign Committee***

The Chairman, with approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Campaign Committee consisting of a Chairman and not less than two additional members. The Campaign Committee shall work to develop and execute programs that will promote the election of Republican candidates, and to perform such other duties as the Chairman and the Executive Committee may direct.

### ***Section 7.04 Nominating Committee***

A Nominating Committee, consisting of not less than five (5) members, shall be elected by the Executive Committee at least sixty (60) days prior to each election. This Committee shall report one nominee for each office to be published with the notice of the meeting at which the election is to be held. After such report, nominations from the floor shall be allowed. Nominees for Members-At-Large and nominees for any officer position shall be current members at the time of nomination. The Nominating Committee should try to nominate candidates for Members-At-Large who represent all geographic areas of the county.

### ***Section 7.05 Constitution/By-Laws Committee***

The Chairman, with approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Constitution/By-Laws Committee consisting of a Chairman and not less than two additional members. The duties of the Constitution/By-Laws Committee shall be to monitor the effectiveness and/or applicability of the Constitution/By-Laws of this organization and prepare and recommend changes to the Executive Committee, and to perform such other duties as the Chairman and the Executive Committee may direct.

### ***Section 7.06 Elections, Committeemen & Poll Workers Committee***

The Chairman, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint an Elections, Committeemen, and Poll Workers Committee consisting of a Chairman and not less than two

additional members. The duties of this committee shall be to 1) promote the election of partisan committeemen and appointment of partisan election workers; 2) to encourage enactment and enforcement of fair election laws; and 3) to target election fraud. The committee shall have authority to act to nominate or appoint Committeemen where the Branch Chairman declares an inability to do so and Poll Workers where the Committeeman for a particular area declares an inability to do so. The Chairman of this committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee and shall be a no-voting member of the Executive Committee.

- (a) At each County Caucus held in odd-numbered years, there shall be an election of the Republican committeemen for each Aldermanic District with respect to a City or polling place with respect to a Village in Milwaukee County. The County Chairman shall inform the City of Milwaukee Election Commission and the appropriate City and Village Clerks of the elected Committeemen within seven (7) days after the County Caucus. The Elections, Committeemen, and Poll Workers Committee shall work with the elected Republican Committeemen to identify candidates to fill any vacancies in Committeeman positions after the County Caucus, which shall be filled by a vote of the elected Republican Committeemen.
- (b) Each Committeeman shall provide to the Committeeman's respective City Clerk, Village Clerk, or the City of Milwaukee Election Commission a list of the Republican election workers that the Committeeman is appointing for the wards in the Committeeman's area by November 30 of each even-numbered year. The Elections, Committeemen, and Poll Workers Committee shall work with the Republican Committeemen to identify individuals to fill any Republican election worker slots which were not filled by November 30 who shall be appointed by the Republican Committeemen.

### ***Section 7.07 Other Committees***

In addition to the foregoing committees, the Chairman, with the consent of the Executive Committee, may establish, from time to time, such other special or temporary committees as may be deemed necessary or desirable.

## **Article VIII. Appointments and Employees**

### ***Section 8.01 Executive Committee***

All appointments shall be made by the Chairman, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

### ***Section 8.02 Terms***

The Chairman may appoint, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, such full or part time employees who may be paid such compensation as the Chairman and Executive Committee may determine. Such employee may, but need not, be an officer or member of the Executive Committee.

## **Article IX. Meetings and Caucuses**

### ***Section 9.01 County Caucus Required***

County Caucuses shall be held upon ten (10) days notice by mail to all members of record, at the call of the Chairman or at the direction of the Executive Committee or upon petition of 1) fifty

members in good standing, or 2) ten percent of the members in good standing, whichever is greater; such petition to state the exact purpose of the Caucus.

### ***Section 9.02 County Caucus Date***

A caucus shall be held prior to April 1st and not earlier than March 1st of each year at which time delegates and alternates shall be elected to attend the district caucuses and the state convention. Delegates and alternates shall be apportioned to Branch Clubs using the formula in the Republican Party of Wisconsin Constitution. Branch Clubs shall nominate, from their membership, a slate of delegates and alternates up to the maximum apportioned to that Branch Club. The County Caucus shall elect the slates nominated by the Branch Clubs. If a Branch Club does not nominate sufficient delegates or alternates to fill the number apportioned to it, the County Caucus may elect to fill the slate with members from among the membership.

In odd-numbered years, officers and member-at-large will be elected to the Executive Committee. Where there is only one candidate for an office, election may be by voice vote. Where more than one candidate is nominated for an office, election will be held by written ballot. A majority of the votes cast shall elect.

### ***Section 9.03 Eligible Voters***

Qualified and voting members of this organization shall be those Republicans, residing in Milwaukee County, who have been recorded as having paid dues 1) more than 29 calendar days prior to any meeting or caucus for persons who are not recorded as members in good standing for the preceding membership year, or 2) more than nine calendar days prior to any meeting or caucus for persons who are recorded as members in good standing for the preceding membership year.

### ***Section 9.04 Executive Committee***

Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held upon seven (7) days notice at the call of the Chairman or upon petition of a majority of the Executive Committee. A minimum of six Executive Committee meetings shall be held in each calendar year.

## **Article X. Quorum**

### ***Section 10.01 Meetings & Caucuses***

A quorum for a meeting or a caucus of this organization shall be a number equal to ten percent of the number of authorized delegates of Milwaukee County to the last preceding state convention, but in no instance less than 15 members.

### ***Section 10.02 Executive Committee***

A quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be a majority of the Executive Committee.

## **Article XI. Parliamentary Authority**

Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern all proceedings except where inconsistent with the Constitution of this organization.

## **Article XII. Branch Clubs**

To advance the promotion of Republican principles and to encourage more extensive political action at the local level, there may be Branch Clubs chartered by the County Executive Committee. The Branch Clubs shall carry on Republican activities and functions within an allotted geographical area.

Each Branch Club shall elect its own Chairman and such other officers as its members deem necessary. Each Branch Club shall conduct a minimum of four membership meetings and/or Party-building events each year.

Each Branch Club shall at all times act in accordance with such directions and restrictions as may be issued by the county Executive Committee. The charter issued to each Branch Club may be suspended, cancelled or revoked upon the vote of two-thirds of the members of the county Executive Committee at any regular or special meeting thereof following a hearing before the Executive Committee, the purpose of which was stated in the notice required under Article IX Section 9.04 of this Constitution. The decision of the Executive Committee is final.

## **Article XIII. Ambiguity**

In the event of any conflict or ambiguity of this Constitution with the Republican Party of Wisconsin Constitution, the Constitution of the Republican Party of Wisconsin shall prevail.

## **Article XIV. By-Laws**

The Executive Committee may, if deemed appropriate, adopt By-Laws or rules of operation so long as they are consistent with this Constitution.

## **Article XV. Amendments**

Amendments to this Constitution must be approved by a simple majority of the Executive Committee, then by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any regular or special meeting or caucus of this organization where the call and notice states such purpose, and then by the State Executive Committee.

Recommended by membership to RPW 1/22/05  
Approved by RPW Executive Committee 2/19/05  
Approved RPMC Membership (1st Vote)  
Approved RPMC Membership (2nd Vote) Effective at the close of the 2005 RPW Convention

Amendment to Section 9.02 Approved by RPW Executive Committee 9/16/06  
Amendment to Section 7.06 Approved by RPW Executive Committee 2/18/06  
Amendments to Article III and Section 9.03 Approved by RPW Executive Committee 2/17/07 and by RPMC at 2007 Caucus

Amendment to Section 6.03 Approved by RPW Executive Committee 2/17/07 and by RPMC at 2007 Caucus

Amendment to Article XIII Approved by RPW Executive Committee 2/17/07 and by RPMC at 2007 Caucus

Amendment to Article XV Approved by RPW Executive Committee 2/17/07 and by RPMC at 2007 Caucus