

Somerset County Republican Committee Bylaws

Revised and adopted 22 September 2011

ARTICLE I – Name

The Name of this Committee shall be the Somerset County Republican Committee, hereafter referred to as SCRC.

ARTICLE II – Objectives

The objectives of the Somerset County Republican Committee shall be:

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 Maine, local Republican Committees, Republican members of the State Legislature who represent this 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 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. (21A MRSA Ch. 37)

ARTICLE III – Members

Section 1. Qualifications. SCRC meetings shall be open to all enrolled Republican voters who are residents of this county. However, voting privileges are limited to Voting Members.

Section 2. Voting Membership. Voting Members on this county committee (SCRC) shall be elected by each town (municipal) committee at the town caucuses preceding each biennial State Convention. The number of Voting Members from each town in Somerset County shall consist of the total number of delegates and alternates allotted for that town to that State Convention.

Section 3. Election Procedure. Voting Members lists for the SCRC shall be approved at the county caucus at each biennial Republican State Convention and shall consist of the persons duly elected as stated in Section 2 above and as required by State law (21A MRSA 361-402). If a municipality entitled to elect a person for approval to the county committee (SCRC) fails to do so, then the county caucus at said state convention may elect any resident of that

municipality to the County Committee as necessary to fulfill the elected membership quotas delineated above.

Section 3A. Failure to Caucus: In the event a town did not caucus before the State Convention, they may, at a later time between state conventions, call a caucus and appoint the appropriate number of members to the SCRC. The town chair must submit minutes from the caucus and a list of members to be appointed to the SCRC. The SCRC will vote at its next meeting regarding approval of that Voting Member list.

Section 4. Other Voting Members. Republican Legislators who reside in this County and the chairs of the municipal Republican committees in this county shall be full Voting Members of this county committee (SCRC).

Section 5. Teen Age Republicans. As TAR organizations are set up at the various high schools, the chair of each organization shall be recognized as a non-voting member of the Somerset County Republican Committee. TAR organizations as a whole shall select one person to represent their interests and concerns to the Executive Committee.

Section 6. Vacancies. Vacancies on the SCRC Voting Member list shall be filled by the appropriate Town Republican Committee. The Town Chair shall call a Town Republican Committee meeting to nominate a successor, according to their By-laws. Said Town Committee will then submit the name(s) and the minutes of that meeting to the SCRC Secretary, to be presented for approval at the next SCRC meeting.

Section 7. Duties of Members. All members are urged and expected to publicly support candidates of the Republican Party. Should a SCRC member be shown to have publicly supported any non-Republican candidate running for a partisan office, voting rights on this Committee may be terminated by a two-thirds vote of the SCRC Voting Members present. Said vote shall take place at a regular meeting of the County Committee, provided that all Voting Members shall receive written notice of the proposed action, including the name of the person(s), at least ten (10) days prior to said meeting. No proxy voting shall be allowed on this issue.

ARTICLE IV – Officers and Duties.

Section 1. Officers. The Officers of the County Committee shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws, by the applicable State and Federal Statutes, and by Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised. Nominees for officers must be Voting Members.

Section 2. Treasurer. The disbursement of funds necessary to conduct SCRC business in accordance with the budget must be approved by a majority vote of

the county committee and signed by the Treasurer and another member of the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall submit monthly, printed, itemized reports of income and expenditures to the County Committee. The Vice Chairman shall reconcile the bank statement and the checkbook each month. Treasurer and the Chairman's names will be on all accounts.

Section 3. The books shall be closed on December 31st of a General Election year and audited within 180 days. However, the books may be audited at any time based on a two-thirds vote of those members present at a county committee meeting. The audit shall be done by two non-executive board members of said county committee as chosen by the SCRC Voting Membership.

Section 4. State Committee members. The membership of the Maine Republican State Committee shall consist of one committeeman and one committeewoman for the county, and in addition, a county shall be entitled to an additional committee member for every 10,000 Republican enrolled voters or portion thereof in excess of the first 10,000 according to the most current official figures available from the office of the Secretary of State on January 1 each even numbered year, to be elected by the state convention after nomination for such offices by the county caucus of each county. Vacancies occurring in the state committee may be filled in accordance with the Bylaws of the State Committee. No regular paid employee of the Maine Republican State Committee may be a member of the State Committee. Nominees for State Committee must be Voting Members of the SCRC.

Section 5. Election of Officers. Officers shall be elected biennially by the Voting Members of the county committee (SCRC) at the next meeting of the SCRC following the Republican State Convention and shall take office at the close of that meeting and serve until their successors are duly elected. The Chair, as a member of the State Committee, cannot also serve, simultaneously, as a State Committeeman, State Committeewoman or State Committee Member-at-Large. Any person holding either office must resign the conflicting position immediately upon their election as the Chair or as a member of the State Committee.

Section 6. Vacancies. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by election at a meeting called for that purpose within thirty (30) days of the date of the call for the election. The Vice Chair shall immediately succeed, for the interim period, to the vacancy in the office of Chair or Treasurer. The position of Secretary, upon vacancy, will be filled on an interim basis by the Public Relations Chair, or, if none, by a rotating pool of SCRC members, unless or until a vote is called. In the event of vacancy of the Vice Chair position, the Chair shall assume all Vice Chair duties until a successor is elected.

Section 7. Removal of Officers. The officers of the County Committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Somerset County Republican Committee and, upon a

motion presented by ten (10) County Committee members representing at least four (4) different municipalities, may be removed from office for malfeasance or violation of these rules by a vote of two-thirds of the Voting Members present. The vote on the motion for recall must be preceded by at least 30 days written notice to the County Committee members. No proxy voting shall be allowed on this issue.

ARTICLE V – Executive Committee

Section 1. Members. There shall be an Executive Committee or Board consisting of the four officers of the County Committee and the State Committee representatives for this county.

Section 2. Duties. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to approve the County Committee's Budget and to make recommendations to the County Committee concerning the disbursement of County Committee funds for political purposes. No disbursements for political purposes shall be made except upon the affirmative vote of the County Committee at a regular meeting.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall have discretion to act in furtherance of the objectives of the County Committee as set forth in Article II, but the Executive Committee shall be bound to follow any instructions given it by the County Committee.

Section 4. The Executive Committee may appoint legal counsel at their discretion. However, no funds can be expended on legal counsel without an affirmative vote of the voting membership

Section 5. Meetings. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called by the Chair, or in their absence or inability to act, by the Vice Chair. Notice of meetings may be given personally or by written notice mailed at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting. The Chair, Vice Chair, or Secretary may sign such notice.

ARTICLE VI – Sub-Committees

Section 1. Such other subcommittee chairs as deemed necessary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee from time to time to carry on the work of the County Committee. The SCRC Chair or their designee shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except a nominating committee. Sub-committees may include but are not limited to a Finance or Fund-raising Chair, a Candidate Recruitment Chair, a Municipal Organization chair and / or a Public Relations chair. Said chairs may solicit volunteers to serve on their committees as necessary. Such committees will serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee and as such, when active, will report on the progress of their work as frequently as circumstances require.

(Section 1 revised, Sections 2 through 5 removed)

Section 6. Other Committees. Such other subcommittees as deemed necessary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee from time to time to carry on the work of the County Committee. The SCRC Chair or their designee shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except a nominating committee.

ARTICLE VII – Meetings

Section 1. Meetings. The Somerset County Republican Chair, in consultation with the SCRC Executive Board, shall propose an annual schedule for regular county meetings. These shall be submitted each year by the first meeting after our June meeting.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Other meetings may be held at any time upon the call of the Chair, or in their absence or inability to act, by the Vice Chair, or upon written petition of at least ten (10) members representing at least four (4) different municipalities of said County Committee. Said petition shall be filed with any member of the Executive Committee, and such member of said Executive Committee shall instruct the Secretary to call such meeting, and if the Secretary fails to do so, such member of the Executive Committee shall be empowered to call such a meeting.

Section 3. Notice. Notice of regular meetings shall be given in writing and mailed at least ten (10) days before the meeting is to be held, unless more time is specifically directed elsewhere in these Bylaws. Notice shall contain the time and place of the meeting and major agenda items. It is the responsibility of every Somerset County Republican Committee member to maintain with the Secretary their current contact information including e-mail address, mailing address and telephone number.

Section 4. Quorum. A quorum of the County Committee shall be fifteen (15) Voting Members representing four (4) municipalities. The Secretary shall confirm that a quorum is in attendance before any action is taken at a meeting.

Section 5. Voting and Proxies.

Each Voting Member of the SCRC shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each question if present in person or if represented by a proxy duly appointed in writing. Proxies must be presented to the Secretary before the meeting.

A member may act as only one (1) proxy per meeting. Said proxy must be an enrolled Republican of the municipality of the member whom he or she represents. In the case of an Officer or State Committee member, the proxy must be an enrolled Republican in Somerset County.

ARTICLE VIII – Parliamentary and Legal Authority

Section 1. Resolutions. Upon written petition of at least six (6) members representing at least three (3) municipalities in Somerset County, any member of the Somerset County Republican Committee may place a resolution before the membership. Any proposed Resolution must be given in legal format to the Chair of the Somerset County Republican Committee no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled meeting where it will be presented. Any proposed resolution must be included on the meeting Agenda and distributed in the same manner as the notification given for County Committee meetings.

Section 2. The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the County Committee in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the County Committee may adopt. Applicable provisions of State and Federal law shall further bind the County Committee.

Section 3. A two-thirds majority vote of those Voting Members present is needed for suspension of the rules.

ARTICLE IX – Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the County Committee (SCRC) by a two-thirds vote of the Voting Members present, provided the proposed amendment is included in the written notice of the meeting, mailed at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said meeting and provided there is a quorum present. The amendment may be further revised at the presentation meeting. Voting on said amendment(s) shall occur at said meeting directly following the presentation and discussion of the proposed amendment(s). Once the amendment(s) have been approved by a two-thirds vote, a copy of the revised version of the amended By-laws will be mailed to each voting member at least ten (10) days prior the next scheduled regular meeting.