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CONSTITUTION

The Republican Party of Manitowoc County

The Republican Party of the United States of America was established in Ripon, Wisconsin in 1854. We, the members of the Republican Party of Manitowoc County strive to preserve the legacy of those who established our Grand Old Party and to honor their founding principles. We believe that those principles are consistent with the vision of the founding fathers of our great nation. We establish this constitution to create a formal structure and rules of order so that we can effectively conduct the business of our organization. Our purpose is to promote the great principles laid down by our party founders and to strive to incorporate those principles into municipal, county, state, and federal government.

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be The Republican Party of Manitowoc County.

Article II - Mission Statement

The mission of this organization shall be to unify, under one central entity, the activities of the Republican Party of Manitowoc County. Furthermore, we shall seek to honorably advance our fundamental principles and policies which include the following:

- The preservation of innocent life
- Smaller government
- Traditional values
- Preservation of the independence of the state of Wisconsin and its allegiance to the United States of America
- Cooperation and assistance in all county, state, and national elections in order to preserve our republican form of government under the Constitution of the United States of America
- Direction, management, and control of the business, property, and funds of the Republican Party of Manitowoc County.

Article III - Membership

Membership in this organization shall be open to all citizens of voting age who are residents of Manitowoc County and believe in the objectives, purposes and principles of the Republican Party. Qualified and voting members of the organization shall be those Republicans who have paid their current dues to the Republican Party of Manitowoc County and who have been so recorded by the Secretary or Treasurer at least ten days prior to any meeting or caucus.

Section I: Membership Year

The membership year shall be from January 1st to December 31st each calendar year.

Section II: Honorary Membership

The Republican Party of Manitowoc County shall accept as honorary members, those persons who are not residents of Manitowoc County but otherwise subscribe to the stated principles and the mission statement of the county party.

Article IV - Officers

The officers of this organization shall consist of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 1: Terms of Office

The officers named in Section 1 shall be elected in a duly constituted County Caucus held prior to April 1st in the odd numbered years. The term of office for the officers and Executive Committee shall be two years, and until the successors are elected and qualified.

Section 2: Duties of Officers

The Chairman shall preside at all meetings or caucuses of the Party and of the Executive Committee, and shall have general supervision of the work of the organization. The Vice-Chairman, in the absence of the Chairman, shall perform the duties of the Chairman. The Secretary shall keep and read minutes of all meetings or caucuses and shall be the custodian of all records of the Party. The Treasurer shall receive and is the custodian of all the funds of the Party and shall pay all the bills. The Treasurer shall keep an account of all monies received and disbursed and shall report in full as required by the Chairman. The Chairman and Treasurer shall file all proper reports as required by law.

Section 3: Compensation

All officers shall serve without compensation except that they may be reimbursed for expenses upon approval of the Executive Committee. The Chairman with the approval of the Executive Committee may appoint full or part-time employees who may be paid such compensation as determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 4: Vacancy

In the event the Chairman position becomes vacant, the Vice-Chairman shall become the Chairman. Other officer vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Chairman with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Article V - Executive Committee

Section 1: Composition

The Executive Committee shall always be comprised of the officers, immediate past chair, finance committee chair and holders of public office who are members of the Republican Party of Manitowoc County. They will be known as the Standing Executive Committee. The Standing Executive Committee is required to elect the other members of the Executive Committee and to serve with them in conducting the business of the Republican Party of Manitowoc County.

Section 2: Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of

- A. Standing Executive Committee
- B. Not less than 5 or more than 8 members-at-large representing different areas of the county may be voted by members of the Standing Executive Committee.
- C. Each committee chair
- D. Chairman of local affiliates that represent the goals and purposes of the Republican Party of Manitowoc County.

Section 3: Terms of Office

- A. The terms of office shall last until the end of the next odd numbered year and successors are elected and qualified.
- B. The immediate past Chairman shall serve until the present Chairman becomes the immediate past Chairman.

Section 4: Removal from Executive Committee:

- A. Any member of the county party may call for the removal of any person serving on the Executive Committee. The complaining member must meet with the Executive Committee to address the complaining member's concerns. Complaining members must have a valid reason for their request and once substantiated by the Executive Committee, must await the Committee decision.
- B. The Executive Committee must act to determine if the request for removal of a member of their committee is reasonable and in keeping with the purpose of the county party.
- C. A voice vote will be held and recorded. If removal is decided as the correct course of action, the expelled member may not serve on the Executive Committee for the remainder of that committee's term.
- D. In the event the committee member in question is an Officer, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, will have jurisdiction.

Article VI - Committees

The following sections will address the standing committees of the Republican Party of Manitowoc County but does not prohibit the Chairman, with the approval of the Executive Committee, from establishing other committees as needed.

Section 1: Officer Nominating Committee

A nominating committee of not less than three (3) members shall be elected by the Executive Committee at least sixty (60) days prior to each election. They shall provide at least one nominee for each office. Notice of nominations will be published with the date, time, and location of the meeting at which the election is to be held. After nominating committee selections are announced, nominations from the floor shall be allowed. Nominees for any officer position must be current members with all dues having been fully paid no less than 10 days prior to the election.

Section 2: Delegate Nominating Committee

A nominating committee of not less than three members shall be appointed by the Chairman and approved by the Executive Committee for the purpose of nominating delegates and alternates to attend each district caucus and state convention. The list must be published and distributed prior to the call to order of the county caucus. Nominations may also be made from the floor of the county caucus.

Section 3: Finance Committee

- A. The Chairman, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Finance Committee Chairman and not less than two (2) additional members of the finance committee.
- B. The duties of the Finance Committee shall be to raise necessary funds for carrying out party activities, to work closely with the Finance Committee of the Republican Party of Wisconsin, and to perform other duties as the Chairman may direct.

Section 4: Campaign Committee

- A. The Chairman, with the Executive Committee approval, shall appoint a Campaign Committee Chairman and not less than two (2) additional members.
- B. The duties of the Campaign Committee shall be to recruit, develop and execute programs that will promote the election of Republican candidates and to perform such other duties as the Chairman may direct.

Article VII - Meetings and Caucuses

Section 1: Meeting Notification

County meetings and/or caucuses shall be held at the call of the Chairman or Executive Committee upon at least eight (8) days notice by mail, electronic mail, phone call to all members of record, or the placement of an advertisement at least twice in a local newspaper. Moreover, an additional caucus may be held if twenty-five (25) members in good standing petition for such a caucus. The petition must state the exact purpose of the caucus and each member in good standing must receive a copy of said petition with notification of meeting date not less than eight (8) days prior to the meeting.

Section 2: Annual Caucus

The annual county caucus shall be held prior to the 4th Saturday in January each year at which time delegates and alternates shall be elected to attend the district caucus and the state convention. Elections may be conducted with a voice vote except where there is more than one candidate nominated for an officer position. In that event, the vote must be by written ballot. Said ballots will remain on file with the party secretary not less than sixty (60) days after which they will be destroyed.

Section 3: Executive Committee Meetings

Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held the 3rd Saturday of each month. Notice will be published in the quarterly newsletter. The Executive Committee can also schedule additional meetings in which case written notice must be given to each member in good standing not less than three (3) days prior to any additional meeting.

The Executive Committee Chairman may, at his or her discretion, excuse from an Executive Committee meeting, any committee member who has given prior notice to the Chairman.

The dates and times of Executive Committee meetings will be published in order to inform members at large who desire to attend such meetings.

Section 4: Attendance via Electronic Means

Voting by proxy shall be prohibited at any regular or special county meeting or caucus but members may attend via phone or other electronic means, if available at the meeting location. Multi-media technologies may also be employed to enable executive committee members to participate in executive committee meetings from a remote location.

Article VIII - Quorum

Section 1: Monthly Meetings or Caucuses

A quorum for monthly meetings or caucuses of this organization shall not be less than eight (8) members of which 2 must be officers.

Section 2: Executive Committee

A quorum for the Executive Committee shall not be less than 6 members of the committee.

Section 3: All Other Committees

A quorum for all other committees shall be a majority of each given committee.

Article IX - Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern all proceedings of this organization except where inconsistent with the constitution and by-laws of this organization.

Article X - Ambiguity

In the event of any conflict or ambiguity within this constitution or by-laws adopted hereunder, the Constitution of the Republican Party of Wisconsin shall prevail.

Article XI - By-Laws

By-laws may be adopted in compliance with this constitution by a majority vote at a duly called county meeting or caucus.

Article XII - District Dues

When the Congressional District fees are assessed to the county party the Treasurer shall be empowered to pay such fees prior to the district caucus and must inform the Executive Committee that such action was taken.

Article XIII - Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be made by a two-third (2/3) vote at any regular or special meeting or caucus of this organization where prior notice is given at least eight (8) days in advance of the meeting, to all members in good standing.

**Manitowoc County Republican Party
By-Laws**

Article I – Endorsement

Section 1: Right to Endorse or Not Endorse

The Manitowoc County Republican Party reserves the right to “endorse” or “not endorse” candidates seeking election to county office and/or the Wisconsin State Legislature in partisan elections. Votes to “endorse” or “not endorse” can occur either before or after the Republican Primary.

Section 2: Caucus or General Membership Meeting

Votes to endorse or not-endorse must be conducted at a caucus or meeting of the general membership, duly noticed in accordance with Article VII, Section I of the Constitution of the Manitowoc County Republican Party and at which a quorum, as required in Article VIII, Section 1 of the Constitution, is present.

Section 3: Procedures

- A. Votes to endorse or not endorse shall be conducted for one position at a time.
- B. Each candidate shall be given up to five minutes to address the membership.
- C. Unless there is only one candidate, voting shall be by secret ballot with a majority vote required to win endorsement. If there are more than two candidates and no candidate achieves a majority vote, subsequent ballots shall be conducted with the lowest vote-getter being dropped from the ballot. If there are two candidates with a tie vote, balloting will continue until one candidate receives a majority.
- D. As an alternative to the endorsement process outlined above, the chair may entertain a motion and a second to “not endorse” any individual candidate. After the candidate is allowed the option of five minutes for remarks and following any discussion on the motion, a voice vote will be held. If a majority of those in attendance vote to “not endorse” the candidate will not be endorsed. A candidate who is “not endorsed” shall not receive any support from the Manitowoc County Republican Party.

Adopted Oct 11, 2010