

MIDDLESEX COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE BY-LAWS

Section 1:

Name:

The name of this organization shall be the "Middlesex County Republican Committee", hereafter referred to as the "Committee".

Section 2:

Purpose:

(a) The purpose of this Committee shall be to espouse the principles and platform of the Republican Party.

(b) This Committee shall represent the Republican Party of Middlesex County regarding views and policies of the party concerning issues and problems in government of Middlesex County, the State of New Jersey and the United States of America.

(c) This Committee supports the concept of open conventions in order to encourage all qualified individuals to seek public office.

(d) This Committee shall support and direct the campaign of Republican candidates in the general election for the three above named levels of government. Such support and direction shall be coordinated with campaigns for local candidates in municipalities of Middlesex County which have local elections.

Section 3:

Members:

(a) The voting members of this Committee shall be duly certified Republican County Committeemen and County Committeewomen as prescribed in Title 19.

(b) The non-voting members shall be the State Committeeman, State Committeewoman, Presidents of Certified County Republican Clubs, (as herein defined in Section 10), all Municipal Chairmen, all elected Republican officials from Middlesex County, and officers of the Committee who are not members of the Committee. Those members designated in this Section 3(b) as well as all other Municipal Chairmen and Committee officers shall meet at the call of the Committee Chairman to act as an Advisory Board in party policy. The Chairman shall have the privilege of inviting to any such meetings other persons such as chairmen of committees, Republican candidates or Republican experts on pending actions.

Section 4:

Officers and Their Election:

(a) Officers of the Committee shall consist of the County Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

(b) At any election where there is more than one candidate for one or more offices, voting machines shall be used.

(c) In any election where there are more than two candidates for the same office, the winner shall be the one receiving more than 50% of the votes cast for that office. If none of the candidates receive more than 50% of the votes on the first ballot, another ballot shall be taken between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot.

(d) Each candidate who is nominated may appoint one challenger for each machine.

(e) For every office for which there are two or more candidates, position on the ballot shall be determined by drawing.

(f) Election of officers shall be supervised by Republican members of the Middlesex County Board of Elections.

Section 5:

Duties of Officers:

(a) (i) The Chairman shall preside at all meetings and shall be responsible for the direction of the Committee. The Chairman shall designate, on or before January 31 of each year, a campaign treasurer and a campaign depository, and shall file the name and address thereof with the Election Law Enforcement Commission. He shall appoint chairmen of the following standing committees: public relations, finance, activities, registration, political action, vacancies and platform. He shall also appoint a five member ethical standards committee, (the chairman to be elected from the membership) for the purpose of administering a code of ethics and reviewing and disposing of all matters pertaining thereto. He may appoint chairmen and members of any other committees which he deems necessary and he shall be a member of any and all committees except the ethical standards committee.

(ii) The Chairman shall call all meetings of the Committee and he shall instruct the Secretary to send notices of same.

(b) The Vice Chairman shall preside in the absence of the Chairman and shall serve in his place in the event of a vacancy of the office of the Chairman until a new Chairman shall have been elected. The Vice Chairman shall assist the Chairman in the performance of his duties.

(c) The Secretary shall record minutes of each meeting of the Committee and shall keep permanent records of same.

(d) The Treasurer shall have custody of all Committee funds, shall maintain regular accounts thereof and shall report on same at each Committee meeting and at any additional time that he is requested to do so by the Chairman. Committee funds shall be deposited at a bank to be designated by the Chairman. Funds are to be withdrawn only by checks signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the Chairman. The Treasurer shall timely file with the Election Law Enforcement Commission such reports as may be required by "The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act", New Jersey Statutes 19:44A-1 et seq. The Treasurer's report shall be audited by a qualified person or persons designated by the Chairman. Such audit shall be conducted during the month proceeding the annual meeting month each year and the results of same shall be reported each year at the annual convention. An audit must precede any change in the office of the Treasurer.

Section 6:

Meetings:

(a) The Chairman may call meetings of the Committee for any purpose which in his judgment requires such a meeting.

(b) The notice for the annual meeting shall be according to the provisions of Title 19.

(c) The Chairman shall call a special meeting of the Committee upon his direction to do so by a petition signed by at least 150 members of the Committee and presented to the Chairman at least 20 days prior to the date of such meeting. Said petition and notices shall contain the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be discussed at said meeting.

(d) Notice of all Committee meetings shall be mailed by the Secretary at least ten days prior to the meeting date.

Section 7:

Screening Committee and County Convention:

(a) Screening Committee:

(i) Members of the screening committee or committees shall be the County Chairman, County Vice Chairman, County Secretary, County Treasurer, State Committeeman, State Committeewoman and all elected County, State and National Republican officials from Middlesex County, Municipal Chairmen and Presidents of Certified County Republican Clubs, Municipal Chairmen or their representatives from affected municipalities outside Middlesex County, Republican members of the Board of Elections and bonus members as described hereafter. Middlesex County municipalities shall have bonus members on the Screening Committee based upon the Republican freeholder vote of the proceeding general election, based on the following formula:

1 Bonus Vote:	1,000-4,999
2 Bonus Votes:	5,000-7,999
3 Bonus Votes:	8,000-10,999
4 Bonus Votes:	11,000 or more.

Bonus votes are to be selected by the County Chairman based upon the recommendations from the affected Municipal Committee.

(ii) The screening committee or committees shall make recommendation to the county convention for candidates, not necessarily limited to one per ballot position.

(iii) Those candidates receiving a two-thirds vote of the Screening Committee shall be recommended to the County Convention. When no candidate receives a two-thirds vote, the Screening Committee shall, on each ballot, drop all candidates who do not receive votes from at least 15% of the members of the Screening Committee present and voting, or the lowest vote getter, in the event each candidate received such 15% percent, until a candidate receives a two-thirds vote or until two candidates for each ballot position remain, both of whom shall be presented to the county convention.

(iv) Screening committee members shall only be permitted to vote for candidates who will be on the ballot in their respective municipalities. This provision shall not apply to the County Chairman, County Vice Chairman, County Secretary, County Treasurer, State Committeeman, State Committeewoman, Republican members of the Board of Elections and Presidents of Certified County Republican Clubs.

(b) County Convention:

(i) The County Chairman shall be convention chairman and shall appoint tellers, sergeant-at-arms, parliamentarians and others necessary for the proper function of the Convention.

(ii) All convention delegates must be registered Republicans.

(iii) Convention delegates will be certified by their respective Municipal Chairman to the credentials committee by noon at last 10 days prior to the day of the convention. Procedures adopted by the Municipal Committee for recruiting of excess delegates must accompany the certified list. Appeals may be heard within 5 days of submission of the certified list.

(iv) Votes for legislative district candidates will be cast by those delegates from those municipalities comprising the district. Additionally, one vote each may be cast by the

County Chairman, Vice Chairman, State Committeeman, State Committeewoman, Board of Election Commissioners and by any elected County official who resides in that district. These shall be known as "at-large" votes.

(v) Votes for county-wide candidates will be cast by the delegates from all 25 municipalities. Additionally, at-large votes (one each) may be cast by the County Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, State Committeeman, State Committeewoman, Board of Election Commissioners, and any elected County official.

(vi) Each candidate for office, or his duly appointed agent, wishing support of the County Convention must appear and request support at the convention. This includes all incumbents. The County Chairman must be notified of the candidate's intention one week before the convention. Nominations to offices may be offered from the floor, without prior notice to the Chairman, if the potential candidate presents a petition to the Chairman containing the names of at least 25% of the registered delegates.

(vii) The Screening Committee shall report to the Convention.

(viii) Ballot procedures:

(1) Each Municipal Chairman will cast the vote of his delegation in direct proportion to the vote present within his delegation. No unit rule will be permitted. No delegate will cast more than one vote. No bullet voting will be allowed.

(2) On the first ballot a simple majority vote for any candidate wins. A candidate is dropped who does not receive the following percentage of the total vote:

Ballot #1	20%
Ballot #2	25%
Ballot #3	30% and up by 5% on each ballot.

(3) On multiple offices, after the first candidate is selected, each originally nominated candidate is eligible to re-enter the race for the next ballot position (for next candidate position).

(4) In the event of a deadlock (defined as 3 successive ballots with no change in vote) the low candidate is dropped.

(ix) A quorum shall be a majority of the certified delegates present.

(x) The convention rules shall be deemed adopted by the convention unless a majority of the registered delegates object in writing to the rules chairman at least 5 days prior to the convention.

(xi) Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, will be the parliamentary authority on rules not governed by law, by-laws or rules adopted by the convention committee.

Section 8:

Procedure:

This Committee shall act in all matters provided for in Title 19 and the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act, according to same. In matters neither provided for in Title 19 nor prescribed in these by-laws, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall prevail.

Section 9:

Code of Ethics:

(a) In order to maintain public confidence in Republican principles and in elected and appointed officials, the Committee feels duty-bound to establish a set of guidelines (A Code of Ethics) to help direct the activities of its candidates, office holders and leadership.

(i) **Conflict of Interest:** In order to insure fairness and objectivity, elected or appointed officials shall not participate, by either word or action, in any governmental transaction involving a firm, organization or other entity in which he, his spouse, his child or relative by blood or marriage is an officer, director, trustee, partner, employee, or has a substantial economic interest.

(ii) **Indictments:** No candidate for election or re-election who has been indicted by a grand jury shall receive the endorsement of the Committee or the line designation in a primary election of the Middlesex County Republican Organization, Inc., except if such candidate shall be found "not guilty". Financial and other support shall be withheld from any Republican candidate indicted after receiving the party's nomination. In addition, any elected or appointed public official indicted while in office shall be expected to move for a speedy trial.

(iii) **Misuse of Influence:** No Republican officeholder or candidate shall accept or solicit, either directly or through some other person, firm, organization or entity, any gift, favor, service, employment, or promise of anything of economic or personal value which can be reasonably expected to be offered with intent to influence his public duties or vote on some governmental business.

(iv) **Accessibility to the Public:** All elected officeholders are expected to encourage and adhere to the concept of public accessibility by setting and publicizing specific hours and locations when and where they will make themselves available for consultation with their constituency. Office holders are also expected to have listed telephone numbers in each telephone directory book covering their constituency.

(v) **Improper Use of Office:** All Republican officeholders will be expected to utilize the utmost discretion and consideration regarding the privileges and accoutrements of their office.

Section 10:

Certified County Republican Clubs:

(a) The Committee, in the manner as hereinafter set forth, shall certify and/or recertify Republican Clubs based in Middlesex County as "Certified County Republican Clubs", for the purpose of determining which such clubs are entitled to participate and/or vote at various activities of the Committee.

(b) Requirements and Guidelines for Certification:

The following criteria shall be used to determine if a club should be certified or recertified as a "Certified County Republican Club":

(i) The club's membership must be open countywide, with members coming from at least 5 different Middlesex County municipalities and with no more than 75% of the membership coming from any one Middlesex County municipality.

(ii) The club must have at least 25 dues paid members at the time of each annual certification. To be counted for certification purposes, members may not be included for certification purposes as members of any other club seeking certification or recertification. (For purposes of certification, a membership roster is to be submitted to the Executive Board of the Committee, which shall consist of the Officers of the Committee, but is not to be circulated further.)

(iii) The club must consist of registered Republican voters.

(iv) The club must have been in existence for at least the two year period prior to the time the club applies for its annual certification.

(v) The club must hold public functions and/or meetings at least 6 times a year, with notification or event calendar of same given to the Committee in advance.

(vi) The club should have a representative/liaison regularly attend the meetings of the Committee and the Committee's periodic, usually monthly, Advisory Board meetings.

(vii) The club should not duplicate the function of a presently certified club, provided such presently certified club requests, qualifies for, and obtains, recertification.

(c) Method of Certification or Recertification:

(i) A club which feels it meets the requirements and guidelines for certification shall forward its written request for certification, containing appropriate proof of its qualifications, to the Secretary of the Committee no later than October 1st prior to the calendar year for which it seeks certification or recertification. A club must submit a request for recertification annually.

(ii) The Officers of the Committee shall review and make the initial determination as to whether or not a club has met the necessary criteria for certification or recertification for the subsequent calendar year.

(iii) If the Officers of the Committee feel that a club has not met the criteria, or if it appears to the Officers of the Committee that the club duplicates in some way the function of another previously certified club, the Officers of the Committee may deny the club certification for the subsequent calendar year. In the event that two clubs with duplicate functions both apply for certification, and neither one is presently certified, the Officers of the Committee shall give preference to the club with a longer active tenure.

(iv) Notice of the determination of the Officers of the Committee shall be given to the effected clubs by no later than Nov 1st.

(v) In the event a club is denied certification for the subsequent calendar year, it may appeal the denial at the following meeting of the Advisory Board of the Committee, on prior written notice to the Officers of the Committee, to the Committee's Counsel, and to each of the 25 Municipal Chairmen. If such an appeal is made from the certification decision of the Officers of the Committee, an affirmative vote, by secret ballot, of at least 13 municipal chairmen shall be required for certification or recertification.

Section 11:

Adoption and Amendment:

(a) These by-laws shall take effect immediately upon adoption by a majority of Committee members voting on same at a Committee meeting.

(b) These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of Committee members voting on same, provided that said amendment shall have been submitted to the County Chairman and Committee in writing.

(c) Should any provision of these by-laws be ruled invalid, all other provisions shall stand.

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