

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
2009 PLAN OF ORGANIZATION**

PREAMBLE

We, the Members of the Republican Party of Cumberland County, dedicated to the sound principles fostered by that party, conscious of our civic responsibilities and rights, firm in our determination to give our strength to preserving the American principle that government ought and must be of all the people, by all of the people and for all of the people do, for the purpose of uniting and coordinating our efforts for maximum power and efficiency, herewith establish this instrument. The Plan of Organization of the Republican Party of Cumberland County.

Article I Membership

All citizens of Cumberland County who are registered Republicans are Members of the Republican Party in Cumberland County and shall have the right to participate in the official affairs of the Republican Party in accordance with these rules. All reference herein to Delegates, Alternates, Officers and Members shall, in all cases, mean persons identified and registered with the Republican Party in the Precinct of their residence.

ARTICLE II COUNTY ORGANIZATION

ANNUAL CONVENTION

1. Call of Convention

a. A County Convention shall be called every year by the Chair of the County Executive Committee, at a suitable location within the county, within the month of March, at least 10 days prior to the scheduled District Convention.

b. At the time of the call of the Convention, the County Chair shall appoint a Credentials Committee, which will meet and issue its report on Delegates and Alternates certified to that Convention at least 3 days in advance of the convening of the Convention. All Delegates and Alternates challenged in the report of the Credentials Committee shall be notified prior to the day of the Convention and allowed to present their case to the Credentials Committee prior to the convening of the Convention. The Delegates and Alternates elected at the Precinct Meetings, unless successfully challenged, shall sit as Delegates and Alternates to the County Convention.

c. If the County Chair fails, refuses or neglects to call a County Convention as required by this Article, it shall become the duty of the Vice-Chair to act in this capacity. The Vice-Chair shall give 5 days notice thereof to all Precinct Chairmen and County Executive Committee Members. If the County Chair or Vice-Chair does not call such a Meeting, it shall be cause for any Member of the County Executive Committee, with the approval of the Congressional District Chair, or State Chairman, to call such County Convention.

2. Convention Action

a. The County Convention shall adopt or amend a written County Plan of Organization not inconsistent with this State Plan of Organization, a current copy of which shall be on file at County Headquarters and at State Headquarters. Failure to comply may result in the County Delegation not being seated at the State Convention by the Credentials Committee.

b. Elections

i. In every odd-numbered year the County Convention shall elect a Chair, First Vice-Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such officers as may be deemed necessary, who shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors are elected.

ii. In every odd-numbered year the County Convention shall elect a County Executive Committee of five or more voters, in addition to the County Officers who shall hold their places for a term of two years, or until their successors are elected. The County Plan of Organization may provide for the County Executive Committee to elect additional members of the County Executive Committee, which were elected by the County Convention.

iii. In every odd-numbered year the County Convention shall elect one [1] delegate and one [1] Alternative to Congressional District and State Conventions, plus, one [1] additional Delegate and Alternative for every 250 registered Republican voters, or major fraction thereof, registered by January 1st of the year.

3. Credentials

The Chair and Secretary of the County Executive Committee shall certify that election of Officers, Committee Members, Delegates and Alternatives to the District and State Conventions, on forms furnished by the State Central Committee, Completed forms shall be in the hands of the Congressional District Secretary and the State Headquarters by the

deadline set by the State Chair. All County Credentials for the State Convention should be mailed to the State Headquarters no later than 10 days following the date of the County Convention or the deadline set by the State Chair, whichever date comes first. The postmarked date will be used to determine compliance for mailed credentials. Copies of all newspaper notices shall be submitted to the N.C. Republican Party, along with County Credentials. No Delegates or Alternative Delegates shall be added to the Credentials list following the adjournment of the County Convention.

4. Convention Fee

For each person who is elected at the County Convention to be either a Delegate or an Alternative to the State Convention, the County shall forward to the State Party a fee set by the State Central Committee to defray the cost of mailing Convention materials to such elected Delegates and Alternatives. The County Plan of Organization permits the County Party to recover this fee from the Delegates and Alternatives.

5. Administrative Procedures

a. No Precinct shall cast more votes than it has duly elected Delegates on the floor at The County Convention.

b. No person shall be seated as a Delegate or Alternative at the County, District or State Convention unless such person shall have been duly elected a Delegate or Alternative by the appropriate Precinct Meeting or County Conventions; except, the registered Republican or Republicans present at the County Convention from an unorganized Precinct, which has not had its credentials accepted, shall have the right to vote one [1] per Precinct, prorated among those present from that Precinct.

c. No Delegate, Alternative or any other Member of the Convention shall cast any vote by proxy; provided however, that when not inconsistent with The Rules of the Republican National Committee, any Delegate of Delegates present shall have the right to cast the entire vote of the County according to the number of Delegates authorized to attend the State Convention, so long as there is one Delegate from the county on the floor to vote the Delegates authorized.

6. Only persons actually present are eligible for election as Delegates or Officers.

ARTICLE III-DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A. The County Chair

1. Shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Party within the County as the head of the County Executive Board.
2. Shall issue the call for Precinct meetings, County Executive Meetings, County Board Meetings and County Conventions.
3. Shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and Committee.
4. Shall obtain and preserve a list of all registered Republicans within the County.
5. Shall appoint a General Counsel, Parliamentarian and Sergeant at Arms for the County Convention.
6. Shall have authority to commit and/or spend up to \$250.00 unplanned expenditure or up to the budgeted total of planned and approved expenditures.
7. Shall recommended persons for appointment to the Cumberland County Board of Elections, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.
8. Shall be the Official Party Spokesman and shall approve all official county news releases.
9. Shall appoint Acting Precinct Chairs. It is ultimately the County Chair's responsibility to ensure that each Precinct is organized.
10. Shall recommend persons to serve as Registrar, Election Judges, and other election officials for each precinct which fails to do so. It is ultimately the County Chair's responsibility to ensure that there are as many Republican election officials in each precinct as allowed by law.
11. Shall be an ex-officio member of all committees at the County level unless otherwise designated.

B. The County First Vice-Chair

1. Shall function as the County Chair in the absence of the Chair.

2. Shall have other duties as may be prescribed by the County Chair.

C. The County Second Vice-Chair

1. Shall function as the County Chair in the absence of the Chair and First Vice-Chair.
2. Shall have other duties as may be prescribed by the County Chair.

D. Secretary

1. Shall take down in writing and shall keep all minutes and records of the Executive Committee meetings, Executive Board Meetings, and the County Convention. Records shall be maintained at Party Headquarters or place designated by County Chairman and shall be available for examination or copying by any registered Republican within the County.

2. Shall immediately upon election, determine and prepare a list of the membership of the Executive Committee, listing each member's name and reason for membership on the committee.

3. Shall keep all official records and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chair and/or the Executive Committee.

4. Shall keep an up-to-date roster of all precinct officers, and Executive Committee members. All of these rosters shall be available to any registered Republican within the County for review or copy, with the Executive Committee roster to be posted at Party Headquarters or place designated by the Chair.

5. If desirable at the request of the appropriate County Convention, it is possible to separate the duties of Secretary between a Recording Secretary and a Corresponding Secretary.

E. The Treasurer

1. Shall receive and account for all Party funds.
2. Shall personally sign all checks of the Party.

3. Shall give a written report on the financial condition of the Party to the Executive Committee at each meeting, and to the County Chairman upon demand.

4. Shall prepare and execute all financial and campaign reports required by North Carolina and Federal statutes.

F. Other Appointed Officers

1. Volunteer Chairman
2. Candidate Recruitment Chairman
3. Finance Chairman

These Officers appointed by the Chair with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee shall have their duties proscribed to them at the time of appointment, and serve at the will of the Chair and Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV PRECINCT ORGANIZATION

A. Annual Precinct Meetings

1. Call for meeting

In every year, the County Chair shall call Precinct Meetings during the month of February or the first 10 days of March, after giving 10 days written notice to each Precinct Chair and by notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the County. Failure of the County Chair to act in compliance with the provision above shall be cause; it shall become the duty of the Vice-Chair to act in this capacity. If the County Chair or Vice-Chair does not call the meetings any Member of the County Executive Committee may call said Precinct Meetings by notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the County. Every Republican registered prior to January 31 preceding the Meetings shall be entitled to cast 1 vote, except that the January 31 requirement shall not apply to residents who have moved into the Precinct within 30 days of the Precinct Meeting.

2. Election of Precinct Officers

At odd-year Precinct Meetings, at which a quorum is one person, attendees shall elect a Precinct Committee consisting of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and as many Members-at-large as deemed necessary to conduct the business of the Precinct. Members of the Precinct Committee

shall hold their offices for two years or until their successors are chosen. There shall be no proxy voting.

3. Election of Delegates

The annual Precinct Meetings shall elect one [1] additional Delegate and Alternative for every fifty [50] registered Republicans, or major fraction thereof, in the precinct.

4. Duties of Officers

The Chair and Secretary of each Precinct shall certify the elections of Officers, Committee Members, Delegates and Alternatives to the County Convention, on the forms stipulated by the State Central Committee and furnished by the County Chair. Complete credentials shall be in the hands of the County Secretary by the deadline set by the County Chair, which shall be at least two [2] days prior to the Credentials Committee Meeting. No Delegate or Alternative shall be added to the Credentials List following the adjournment of the Precinct Meeting.

5. Other Precinct Meetings

a. Other meetings of the Precinct general membership may be held at such time as shall be designated by the Chair of the Precinct Committee after giving five [5] days notice of such meeting in the newspaper of general circulation with the county, or by such other method of notification as may be specified in the County Plan of Organization; or upon similar call of one third [1/3] of the Members of the Precinct Committee, or ten [10] members of the general Precinct Membership. There shall be no proxy voting.

b. In the event a Precinct fails to properly organize or the Precinct Chair fails to act, the County Chair shall appoint an Acting Precinct Chair to serve until a general membership meeting can be called and a new Chair elected.

B. PRECINCT COMMITTEE

1. Duties of Committee

The Precinct Committee shall cooperate with the County Executive Committee in all elections and Party activities, provide the County Chair with a list of Party Members within the precinct suitable for appointment as Election Officials, and promote the objectives of the Party within the precinct.

2. Duties of Officers

The Chair of the Precinct Committee, with the advice and consent of the Precinct Committee, shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Party within the Precinct, shall preside at all meetings of the precinct, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Precinct Committee or the County Executive Committee. The Vice-Chair shall function as Chair in the absence of the Chair. The Secretary shall keep all minutes and records and shall maintain a list of registered Republican voters and workers within the Precinct, unless otherwise provided by the Precinct committee or the County Executive Committee.

4. Vacancies and Removals

a. Vacancy due to death, resignation, discontinuance of residency within the Precinct, removal of any Officer, or Member of the Precinct Committee, or other vacancy, shall be filled by the remaining Members of the Precinct Committee. In the absence of other members, the County Chair shall appoint an acting Precinct Chair.

b. The procedure for removal of any Member or Officer is defined in Article VIII B. Such removal may be appealed to the County Executive Committee within 20 days and their decision shall be final.

4. Acting Precinct Chairs shall have all the rights, duties, and obligations of the office of Precinct Chair. The Acting Precinct Chairs shall call a general precinct meeting within 30 days of appointment, or other reasonable time specified by the County Chair, for the purpose of electing new officers to serve out the terms of vacant positions. The Acting Precinct Chair may act in the interim to accomplish duties as specified by the County Chair.

ARTICLE V COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Membership

The County Executive Committee shall consist of the County Officers and other persons elected by the County Convention, the County Finance Chair, Precinct Chairmen, current and former Republican elected officials, including judicial officeholders, Former Republican Party Chairmen - as long as they reside in Cumberland County and are registered Republican, One member of any auxiliary countywide Republican Men's or Women's club dedicated to electing Republicans to the exclusion of any other party or affiliation. Precinct Chairmen, Republican Officeholders, Former Chairmen, and Representatives of

Auxiliary Clubs shall have the right to vote and are considered “ex-officio” members.

2. Powers and Duties

The County Executive Committee shall cooperate with the District and State Committees in all elections and Party activities; shall encourage qualified candidates for office within the County; shall adopt a budget; and shall recommend nominees to the State Chair for appointments for County Board of Election; and shall have active management of Party affairs within the County. It shall approve a Finance Committee and an Auditing Committee of not less than 3 Members each and may approve such other Committees indicated in this paragraph. In the event that it is determined that the County Plan of Organization is not consistent with the State Party Plan of Organization, the County Executive Committee must at the next called meeting bring the County Plan of Organization into compliance with the State Party Plan of Organization. Under any circumstances, the County Plan of Organization must be brought into compliance within 90 days. If permitted, the County Executive Committee may amend the County Plan of Organization upon a 2/3 vote after providing notice of the meeting advising members regarding the substance of the proposed amendment and provided a quorum is present. There shall be a minimum of 4 meetings per year.

3. Meetings

a. The Chair of the County Executive Committee, with the advice and consent of the County Executive Committee, shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Party within the County. The Chair shall issue the call for Precinct Meetings and the County Convention, and Executive Committee Meetings, and shall preside at all the Meetings of the County Executive Committee. The Chair shall further appoint a temporary Chair of the County Convention, who may be himself. The Chair shall be responsible for the creation and maintenance of a Republican organization in every Precinct within his County. The Chair shall obtain and preserve a list of all registered Republicans within the County and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the County, District, or State Committees; the County Chair shall be an “Ex-officio” Member of all Committees unless otherwise designated in the County Plan of Organization.

b. The Vice-Chair shall function as Chair in the absence of the Chair and shall have such other duties as may be prescribed by the County Executive Committee. The Vice-Chair shall be an “Ex-officio”

Member of all Committees unless designated in the County Plan of Organization.

c. The Secretary shall keep all minutes and records and shall maintain a roster of all Precinct Officers and Executive Committee Members. Such records shall be available, including all Credentials Lists upon request, to any registered Republican within the County. The Secretary shall furnish to the Congressional District Chair and to State Headquarters up-to-date lists of all Precinct Chairmen.

d. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds for Party expenditures pursuant to authority duly given by the County Executive Committee, shall make a financial report at all County Executive Committee Meetings and shall fulfill all financial reports and obligations required under State and Federal election laws.

4. Vacancies and Removals

In case of death, resignation, discontinuance of residency within the County, removal of any Officer or Member if the County Executive Committee the resulting vacancy shall be filled by the County Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI EXECUTIVE BOARD

The County Executive Board shall consist of the County Chairman and other elected officers of the Party, the immediate past Chair and four members-at-large elected by the County Executive Committee to serve terms concurrent with the elected officers of the Party. The County Executive Board shall meet at the discretion of the County Chair to perform the following duties:

- 1.** Manage the day to day activities of the Party.
- 2.** Prepare proposed budgets, schedules, statements, and calendars for County Executive Committee approval.
- 3.** Prepare reports of projects, programs, and activities, as required by the Executive Committee.
- 4.** Authorize expenditures of up to \$500.00 per unplanned expenditure.
- 5.** Establish agendas for the Executive Committee meetings and County Conventions.

6. Appoint ad hoc committees as needed to accomplish specific time-constrained tasks.

7. Prepare/Approve correspondence, press releases, statements, and reports for the County Chair's signature.

8. Any other duties assigned by the County Executive Committee.

9. The County Executive Board shall meet at the call of the County Chair or if the Chair fails to act, by a majority of the county Executive Board. Monthly meetings are encouraged; bi-monthly meetings are required.

10. The County Executive Board may remove a member for failure to support the Party, [e.g. attend meetings] by two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE VII COUNTY AUDITING COMMITTEE

The Auditing Committee of not less than three [3] members shall conduct a yearly audit of the financial records of the County Party or other audit as directed by the Executive Board, and report such audit to the Executive Committee for approval.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS. APPLICABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS PLAN

A. OFFICIAL RECORDS

Minutes shall be kept by all Committees and Conventions of official actions taken, and a copy shall be filed with the Chair of the appropriate Committee or Convention.

B. FORFEITURE OF OFFICIAL PRIVILEGES

1. Removal or Resignation from Committees

Any current or former Officer or Member of a Precinct Committee, County Executive Committee, District Committee, State Executive Committee or State Central Committee who, for any reason, is removed or resigned from said position shall forfeit all rights and privileges in any way connected with that position.

2. Party Disloyalty

a. For the purpose of this Plan of Organization, "party disloyalty" shall be defined as actively supporting a candidate of another Party or

independent candidate running in opposition to a nominee of the Republican Party.

b. Any registered Republican using a current or former title as a Party or elected official on the Republican ticket to influence the outcome of any election against a Republican Nominee may be declared ineligible to hold office under the County Plan of Organization at the State, District, and Precinct level for Party disloyalty by 2/3 vote of the County Executive Committee. The County Executive Committee may declare a Republican found to have engaged in Party disloyalty as ineligible to serve in any office under this Plan of Organization for period of time between 6 months and 5 years.

C. APPLICABILITY

1. Rules as to Towns and Cities

This Plan of Organization is not intended to extend to or establish organizations for the Republican Party of various towns and cities of Cumberland County as separate units from the Precinct and County Organization. Qualified and registered Republican voters of the towns and cities of the state may organize and promulgate their own rules not inconsistent with the rules and the organizations herein established.

2. Rules as to Counties and Districts

The Precinct and County Committees and County Conventions are authorized to promulgate such additional rules and establish such additional Party Officers or Committees for their respective organizations, not inconsistent with these rules, as shall be deemed necessary.

D. Authority

1. Controversies

Controversies in any County or District with respect to the organizations set up therein under this Plan shall be referred to the State Chair, State Vice-Chair, National Committeeman, National Committeewoman and General Counsel for arbitration. Ruling shall be made within 60 days, and their decision shall be final.

2. Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern all proceedings, except when inconsistent with this County Plan of Organization or Convention Rules properly adopted.

3. Gender and Number

The masculine pronoun or title herein includes the feminine, and the singular herein includes the plural, wherever appropriate.