

# **PLAN OF ORGANIZATION CARTERET COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY**

*Adopted March 19, 2011*

## **ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP**

### **A. MEMBERS**

All citizens of Carteret County, North Carolina who are registered Republicans are Members of the Carteret County Republican Party of North Carolina and shall have the right to participate in the official affairs of the Carteret County 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. Any person running for an office in the Carteret County Republican Party or any precinct therein shall be a resident of the jurisdiction in which he/she seeks office.

## **ARTICLE II - PRECINCT ORGANIZATION**

### **A. ANNUAL PRECINCT MEETINGS**

#### **1. Call for Meeting**

In every year, the County Chairman shall call Precinct Meetings during the month of February, or March, after giving 10 days written notice to each Precinct Chairman and by notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the County as provided for in Article IV.A.4. The Precinct Chairs shall also be informed as to the number of registered Republicans entitled to cast votes at the county convention, and in accordance with Article IV.A.4. Failure of the County Chairman to act in compliance with the provision above shall be cause for any Member of the County Executive Committee to call said Precinct Meetings by notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the County as provided for in Article IV, A.4. Every Republican registered prior to January 31, preceding the Meetings shall be entitled to cast one 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, unless the County Plan of Organization requires a larger number, attendees shall elect a Precinct Committee consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, 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.

#### **3. Election of Delegates**

The annual Precinct Meetings shall elect one delegate and one alternate to the County Convention. They shall also elect one additional delegate and alternate for each 100 registered Republican voters, or major fraction thereof, in the precinct as of January 31, of that year. In determining the number of registered Republicans to be used as the basis for the number of additional delegates and alternates to be elected in the precinct under this calculation, a County may adopt, in its Plan of Organization, a basis number of registered Republican voters less than

100 but, in so doing, must assure proportional representation of all registered Republican voters in the County.

#### **4. Duties of Officers**

The Chairman and Secretary of each Precinct shall certify the election of Officers, Committee Members, and Delegates and Alternates to the County Convention, on forms stipulated by the State Central Committee and furnished by the County Chairman. Complete credentials shall be in the hands of the County Secretary by the deadline set by the County Chairman, which shall be at least two days prior to the Credentials Committee Meeting; provided, however, that when the Precinct Meetings and the County Convention are held on the same day, the complete credentials shall be in the hands of the County Secretary at the time set by the County Chairman on that day. No Delegate or Alternate shall be added to the Credentials List following the adjournment of the Precinct Meeting. This delegate list shall be made immediately available to any Republican candidate, at that candidate's reasonable expense, along with a confidentiality and use agreement that said list will be used only for Republican activities related to the candidate's run for office.

#### **5. Other Precinct Meetings**

**a.** Other Meetings of the Precinct general Membership may be held at such time as shall be designated by the Chairman of the Precinct Committee after giving 5 days notice of such Meeting in a newspaper of general circulation within the County, or by such other method of notification as may be specified in the County Plan of Organization; or upon similar call of 1/3 of the Members of the Precinct Committee, or 10 Members of the general Precinct Membership.

**b.** In the event a Precinct fails to properly organize or the Precinct Chairman fails to act, the County Chairman shall appoint a Temporary Precinct Chairman who shall serve for a period not to exceed 60 days, during which time a County Executive Committee Meeting shall be called and a new Precinct Chairman shall be elected by the County Executive Committee. All Executive Committee members present at a County Executive Committee meeting called for the purpose of electing a new Precinct Chairman may vote in the election; there is no requirement for a voting Executive Committee member to be registered in the precinct for which a new Precinct Chairman is being 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 Chairman 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 Chairman 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-Chairman shall function as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman. 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.

### **3. 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 for any other reason, shall be filled by the remaining Members of the Precinct Committee, or as provided in the County Plan of Organization.

**b.** The procedure for removal of any Member or Officer is defined in Article IV A.7. Such removal maybe appealed to the County Executive Committee within 20 days and their decision shall be final.

## **ARTICLE III - COUNTY ORGANIZATION**

### **A. ANNUAL CONVENTION**

#### **1. Call to Convention**

**a.** A County Convention shall be called every year by the Chairman 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, and following procedures given in Article IV, A.4.

**b.** At or about the time of the call of the Convention, the County Chairman, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Credentials Committee consisting of no less than 3 people, which will meet and issue its report on Delegates and Alternates certified to that Convention. If Precinct Meetings are held prior to the County Convention, the Credentials Committee shall issue its report on Delegates and Alternates at least 3 days in advance of the convening of the County Convention. When Precinct Meetings are held prior to the date of the County 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. If the Precinct Meetings and the County Convention are held concurrently on the same day, the Credentials Committee shall issue its report on Delegates and Alternates certified to the County Convention prior to the transaction of any business at the County Convention. When Precinct Meetings are held concurrently on the same day with the County Convention, all Delegates and Alternates challenged in the report of the Credentials Committee shall be notified on that day and allowed to present their case to the Credentials Committee. 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 Chairman fails, refuses or neglects to call a County Convention as required by this Article, it shall become the duty of the Vice-Chairman to act in this capacity. The Vice-Chairman shall follow procedures given in Article IV, A.4. If the County Chairman or Vice-Chairman 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 Chairman, or Chairmen, to call such County Convention.

#### **2. Convention Action**

**a.** Each year, 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. If the County Conventions fails to adopt a written County Plan of Organization, the previously adopted County Plan of Organization shall remain in effect, to the extent not inconsistent with the State Plan of

Organization. If a County has never adopted a County Plan of Organization and fails to adopt a written County Plan of Organization at a County Convention, the State Plan of Organization shall control. Failure to comply may result in the County Delegation not being seated at the State Convention by the Credentials Committee. Failure of a County Republican Party to submit a County Plan to the NCGOP State Headquarters, within 30 days of its adoption shall constitute agreement by the County Party to adopt the State Plan of Organization for that county.

**b. Elections**

**i.** In every odd-numbered year the County Convention shall elect a Chairman, First Vice Chairman, Second Vice Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and such other Officers as may be deemed necessary, who shall serve for a term of 2 years or until their successors are elected.

**ii.** In every odd-numbered year the County Convention shall elect a County Executive Committee which shall consist of the following in addition to the officers named in Article III.2.b.I above:

- Immediate past chairman
- Presidents of Carteret County's Republican organizations
- County residents who hold partisan elective public office
- Precinct chairmen
- Precinct vice-chairman
- Chairmen of all committees
- County Finance Chairman
- Such other additional at-large members that are elected at annual conventions or at properly convened Carteret County Executive Committee meetings

All terms of Executive Committee membership shall be two-year terms from the date of the close of the Convention at which this Plan of Organization is adopted.

Persons elected at-large to the Executive Committee between the odd numbered year conventions shall serve until the next odd numbered year convention. In order to be eligible for election to the Executive Committee between odd numbered year conventions, individuals must be present at an Executive Committee meeting where their name will be brought before the membership for consideration. At the following meeting of the Committee, a vote may be taken on the candidacy provided the individual is present. The vote will be conducted by secret ballot.

**iii.** The County Convention shall elect one Delegate and one Alternate to Congressional District and State Conventions, plus one additional Delegate and Alternate for every 250 Republicans, or major fraction thereof, registered in that county, as of January 1 of that year. Each County shall further elect one Delegate and Alternate for each Republican elected to the state legislature and to public office on the state or national level from said County in the last election held for that office. With respect to the District Convention, the additional one delegate and one alternate shall only be elected to the District Convention being held in the District in which said Republican elected to the state legislature and to public office on the state or national level actually lives.

**iv.** If a County has been divided between two or more Congressional Districts, it shall prorate its Delegate vote among these Congressional Districts in accordance with the Republican registration as of January 1, of that year in the political subdivisions within the County which have been divided among the different Congressional Districts. Delegates elected to a Congressional District Convention, in addition to the other

qualifications which they must meet, must reside in the Congressional District to whose Convention they are elected. The Delegates to the County Convention from the political subdivisions in different Congressional Districts shall elect the Delegates to their own Congressional District Convention.

### **3. Credentials**

The Chairman and Secretary of the County Executive Committee shall certify the election of Officers, Committee Members, Delegates, Alternates and Precinct Chairs to the District and State Conventions, on forms furnished by the State Central Committee and in conformance with Article IV. Completed Credentials shall be in the hands of the Congressional District Secretary and the State Headquarters by the deadline set by the State Chairman. All County Credentials for the State Convention should be mailed to State Headquarters no later than 10 days following the date of the County Convention or the deadline set by the State Chairman, whichever date comes first. The postmark date will be used to determine compliance for mailed credentials. No Delegates or Alternates shall be added to the Credentials list following the adjournment of the County Convention. Copies of all newspaper notices, in addition to a list of county and precinct officers, shall be submitted to the NC Republican Party and all applicable Congressional District Committees along with County Credentials.

### **4. Convention Fee**

For each person who is elected at a County Convention to be either a Delegate or an Alternate to the State Convention, the County shall forward to the State Party a fee set by the State Central Committee to defray the costs of mailing Convention materials to such elected Delegates and Alternates. A County Plan of Organization may permit the County Party to recover this fee from the Delegates and Alternates following their election.

## **B. COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **1. Membership**

The County Executive Committee shall consist of the County Officers and other persons elected by the County Convention in accordance with Article III A.2, and the County Finance Chairman.

### **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 Chairman 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 three Members each and may approve such other Committees as may be deemed necessary. The County Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be Ex-officio Members of all 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 by the County Plan of Organization the County Executive Committee may amend the County Plan of Organization upon a 2/3 vote after providing written notice via first class United States Mail of the meeting advising members regarding the substance of the proposed amendment and provided a quorum is present. County Republican Parties shall submit, by certified United States mail, return receipt requested, their

county plans of organizations, and amendments thereto, to the NCGOP State Headquarters within 30 days after their adoption, in order for the Plan and/or amendment to be considered valid.

### **3. Meetings**

The County Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year upon call of the County Chairman after giving 10 days notice to all Members; or upon similar call of 1/3 of the Members of the Committee. The County Plan of Organization shall specify a quorum for the transaction of business, but in no event shall it be less than 25% of the County Executive Committee.

### **4. Duties of Officers**

**a.** The Chairman 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 Chairman shall issue the call for Precinct Meetings, the County Convention, and Executive Committee Meetings, and the Chairman shall preside at all the Meetings of the County Executive Committee. The Chairman shall appoint a Finance Chairman, Auditing Committee (subject to the advice and consent of the County Executive Committee) and any other committees the Chairman deems necessary to conduct the business of the County Executive Committee. The Chairman shall further appoint a Temporary Chairman of the County Convention, who may be himself. The Chairman shall make periodic reports on the status of the Party within his County to the District Chairman. The Chairman shall be responsible for the creation and maintenance of a Republican organization in every Precinct within his County. The Chairman 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 Chairman shall be an "Ex-officio" Member of all Committees unless otherwise designated in the County Plan of Organization.

**b.** The Vice-Chairman shall function as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman and shall have such other duties as may be prescribed by the County Executive Committee. The Vice-Chairman shall be an "Ex-officio" Member of all Committees unless otherwise 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 Chairman 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.

### **5. Vacancies and Removals**

**a.** Vacancy due to death, resignation, discontinuance of residency within the County, removal of any Officer or Member of the County Committee, or for any other reason, shall be filled by the remaining members of the County Committee, or as provided in the County Plan of Organization.

**b.** The procedure for removal of any Member or Officer is defined in Article IV A.7. Such removal may be appealed to the State Central Committee within 20 days and their decision shall be final.

## **C. COUNTY FINANCE AND AUDITING COMMITTEES**

### **1. Finance Committee**

The County Finance Committee shall be composed of the County Finance Chairman, the County Chairman, County Vice-Chairman, the County Treasurer, and not less than three persons approved by the County Executive Committee. They shall cooperate with the Congressional District and State Finance Committees and shall have active management of fund-raising efforts within the County.

### **2. Auditing Committee**

The members of the Auditing Committee shall be nominated by the County Chairman and the names shall be presented for the advice and consent of the County Executive Committee. The Auditing Committee, once approved, shall conduct a yearly review of the financial records of the County and report such review to the County Executive Committee for approval. The review to be conducted shall be of the type and nature which the Auditing Committee, in its discretion, deems appropriate.

## **ARTICLE IV - GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE**

### **A. CONVENTION PROCEDURES**

#### **1. Annual Conventions and Presidential Election Year Conventions**

**a.** The County, Congressional District, and State Conventions shall be called to order by their respective Chairmen, or in the absence of the Chairman, by the Vice-Chairman or Secretary, in order slated, who shall have the power to appoint the necessary Convention Committees and Temporary Officers at or before the convening of the Convention.

**b.** No member of a credentials committee created by this Plan shall be eligible to be elected to an officer or executive committee position at the convention for which the credentials committee serves, nor shall a committee member publicly support anyone for an office to be elected by said convention. Except when voting in convention, members of credentials committees shall strive to maintain the integrity of the convention and the committee by conducting the business of the committee with impartiality and strict neutrality on the business and elections of said convention.

#### **2. Voting Procedure**

**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 at any County, District or State Convention unless such person shall have been duly elected a Delegate or Alternate by the appropriate Precinct Meeting or County Convention; except, the registered Republican or Republicans, present at a County Convention from an unorganized Precinct, which has not had its credentials accepted, shall have the right to vote one vote per Precinct, prorated among those present from that Precinct.

c. No Delegate, Alternate or any other Member of a Convention shall cast any vote by proxy; provided, however, that, when not inconsistent with the Rules of the Republican National Committee, any Delegate or Delegates present shall have the right to cast the entire vote of the County in District and State Conventions. Votes for Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be by county according to the number of Delegates authorized to attend the state convention, so long as there is one delegate, from that county, on the floor to vote the Delegates authorized.

d. At the Presidential Year Convention, the delegates and alternates to the National Convention, in addition to the National Committeeman and National Committeewoman shall be elected only by votes from the Convention delegates on the floor of the Convention. Presidential Electors-at-large shall be nominated only by votes from the delegates on the floor of the Convention.

e. Ex-officio members of the committees have the same voting rights as the other committee members, and are not counted in determining if a quorum is present. When an Ex-officio member of a committee ceases to hold the office that entitles him/her to such membership, his/her membership terminates automatically.

### **3. Special Meeting and Conventions**

The State Central Committee, at any time, in the interests of the Republican Party, may direct the State Chairman or the Congressional District Chairmen to issue a call for Special Senatorial, Judicial or Legislative Organization Meetings, and Special County and Congressional District Conventions, in any or all of the Counties and Districts of the State. The procedure for calling Regular Meetings and Conventions shall apply to the calling of Special Meetings and Conventions so far as applicable and not inconsistent with this Plan of Organization.

### **4. Newspaper of General Circulation**

Notice published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County for the purpose of this Plan of Organization shall include either a paid advertisement or a news item, provided it includes the time, date, location and purpose of the Meeting. Such notices shall appear in the newspaper at least 10 days prior to the Meeting or Convention. This in no way relieves the County Chairman of the responsibility of providing written notice to party officers as may be otherwise required by this Plan of Organization.

### **5. Challenges**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Plan of Organization, challenges to Delegates and Alternates must be made in their capacity as individual Delegates and Alternates. The successful challenges of individuals in their capacity as Delegates and Alternates shall not affect the seating of other Delegates and Alternates in the same Precinct or County Delegates unless it can be demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence that the previous election of such successfully challenged Delegates and Alternates resulted in the election of other Delegates and Alternates within such Delegation who would not otherwise have been elected, but for the votes of the unqualified Delegates or Alternates.

### **6. General Election Procedure**

Notwithstanding any other Article in this Plan of Organization, the allocated Delegate slots and then the allocated Alternate slots allotted under this Plan of Organization to a Precinct or a County shall be filled first by the election of those duly qualified registered Republicans, eligible to vote, present at such Meeting or Convention and desiring to be elected to fill such slots. All duly qualified Republicans registered to vote may be elected by qualified Republicans attending

the meeting to fill slots that have not been filled by Republicans attending the meeting or conventions. A county may provide in its Plan of Organization that only persons actually present are eligible for election as Delegates or Officers.

## **7. Vacancies and Removals**

a. Any Member of a Committee organized under this Plan may be removed by a 2/3's vote of the respective Committee after being furnished with notice of the charges against him, signed by not less than 50, or 1/3 of the Members of the Committee, whichever is the lesser. Any Republican against whom charges are brought shall be furnished with two weeks notice of said charges and be given an opportunity to present a defense. Removal shall be confined to gross inefficiency, Party disloyalty or failure to comply with the County, District, or State Party Plans of Organization. The vote for removal will be conducted by secret ballot.

b. For the purposes 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 candidate of the Republican Party or a Republican endorsed by the appropriate Executive Committee in a non-partisan election.

c. Any Executive Committee member who has three consecutive unexcused absences from Executive Committee meetings shall be automatically resigned from the Executive Committee. The resulting vacancy created shall be filled in accordance with Article III B.5.a. With reference to this paragraph, an excused absence is defined as an absence that is anticipated and/or announced and documented by letter (or e-mail) received by the Party Secretary prior to the meeting that will be missed.

## **8. Non-Partisan Candidates and Office Holders**

No County, Congressional District or State Committee of the North Carolina Republican Party shall offer an opportunity for a candidate for, or current office holder of, a "non-partisan office" who is not a Registered Republican to address a Republican Convention or other function sponsored by the North Carolina Republican Party or any of its subdivisions.

## **B. OFFICIAL RECORDS**

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

## **C. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

### **Records**

The Chairman, Treasurer, and Finance Chairman of the County, District and State Committees shall keep faithful and accurate records of any and all monies received by them for the use of the said Committees and shall make faithful and accurate reports thereof when so requested.

## **D. APPOINTMENTS**

### **1. Notification**

It shall be the duty of the State Chairman to transmit notice of known vacancies on a County, District or State level to those persons having jurisdiction over such appointments.

## **2. Filling Vacancies**

**a.** When a vacancy occurs in a governmental office for which a Party recommendation is called for, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina and the terms of this Plan. The abovementioned recommendation shall be provided by the committee having jurisdiction over the district which is subject of the vacancy.

**b.** In multi-county offices or state legislative offices, the responsibility for calling the meeting rests with the State Chairman. The State Chairman may delegate this authority to the appropriate district or county chairman or the Congressional District Chairman if the county or congressional district, as the case may be, encompasses all the district or county in which the vacancy occurs.

**c.** Unless otherwise provided by law, notice to committee members of the time, date, location and purpose of the meeting at which a recommendation for filling the vacancy will be considered, must be made by certified United States Mail to the last known address of the committee member. Notice must be mailed at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting, unless good cause exists for shortening the time period. In no case may the meeting be scheduled for a date and time less than five (5) days after the mailing of the notice to committee members.

**d.** In those cases where the State Chairman or, by appointment, the county, district, or Congressional District Chairman calls the meeting, the State Chairman shall designate the person to chair the meeting. The vote shall be conducted in a method reasonably calculated to assure accuracy and fairness to all potential candidates for the position.

**e.** Should any cause or provision found in this section be deemed inconsistent with the laws of the State of North Carolina, those laws shall govern as to the particular clause or provision and the remainder of this section shall apply.

## **E. 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**

Any registered Republican attempting to influence or influencing the outcome of any election against a Republican candidate or Republican endorsed by the appropriate Republican Executive Committee or Legislative Caucus, other than by supporting an opposing Republican Candidate in a Republican primary, may be declared ineligible to hold office under the State Plan of Organization at the State, District, and Precinct level for Party disloyalty by 2/3 vote of the State Executive Committee. Charges of Party disloyalty may be brought by petition of 50 members of the State Executive Committee, or by resolution of a County or District Republican Executive Committee. The State Executive Committee may declare a Republican found to have engaged in Party disloyalty as ineligible to serve in any office under the Plan of Organization for a period of time between six months and five years.

## **G. REFRAIN FROM UTILIZING POWERS OF OFFICE IN REPUBLICAN PRIMARY**

Each Officer and each Member of the State Executive Committee shall refrain from utilizing the powers and dignity of his or her office or position in any Republican Primary for public office at any level.

## **H. PARTY OFFICERS AS CANDIDATES**

In the event that the chairman or vice chairman of the State Party, or any District, Legislative, Judicial or County Party, shall announce his intentions to run for public office or shall file a notice of candidacy with the Board of Elections, that person shall be deemed to have resigned his office within the Party, effective seven days after the close of filing, and the then-existing vacancy shall be filled as provided for herein. In those cases where the Party office held by said person is at the county level, the Party official may petition the County Executive Committee for exemption from this provision and the County Executive Committee may, for good cause shown, grant such an exemption with a two-thirds affirmative vote. This exemption shall be deemed void if any other Republican files with the Board of Elections for the same public office within that election cycle.

## **I. ENDORSEMENTS IN NON-PARTISAN ELECTIONS**

1. In non-partisan elections, district and county executive committees shall have exclusive authority to endorse registered Republicans running in that district or county. Political subdivision executive committees (ie. County Executive Committee) shall not issue endorsements in non-partisan races unless the District resides entirely within the County. All members of the County Executive Committee may vote on the non-partisan endorsements for districts wholly encompassed within that county, regardless of whether Committee members live within the District in question.
2. In non-partisan, statewide judicial elections, the NCGOP State Executive Committee shall have the exclusive authority to endorse registered Republicans. Political subdivisions executive committees (ie., County Executive Committees, Congressional District Executive Committees, etc) shall not issue endorsements of non-partisan, statewide judicial candidates inconsistent with the State Executive Committee endorsements.
3. With respect to any endorsement provided for in this section (Article IV, Section I), and unless otherwise provided by law, notice to committee members of the time, date, location, and purpose of the meeting at which any such endorsement will be considered must be made by United States Mail to the last known address of the committee member. Notice must be mailed at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting, unless good cause exists for shortening the time period. In no case may the meeting be scheduled for a time and date less than (5) days after the notice to committee members. Such notice shall also be provided to all registered Republicans who are candidates seeking the office for which the endorsement is made.

## **ARTICLE V- AMENDMENTS, APPLICABILITY & EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS PLAN**

### **A. AMENDMENTS TO PLAN OF ORGANIZATION**

1. The Plan of Organization may be amended, not inconsistent with the Rules of the Republican National Committee, by majority vote of the delegates present and voting at any State Convention provided, however, that the proposed amendment was mailed to the membership of

the State Executive Committee, elected at the preceding District Convention, at least thirty days prior to the convening of the State Convention. This mailing requirement shall not apply to the Report of the duly appointed Plan of Organization Committee, which shall be noticed pursuant to Section IV.A.3.b of this Plan.

**2.** Amendments from the Convention floor to the proposed Amendments to the Plan (an amendment to the amendment) which would materially alter the intent of the original proposed amendment must receive a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting at any State Convention. This paragraph applies only to amendments to Amendments to the Plan that were mailed out to the Executive Committee as above described.

**3.** Proposed amendments to the Plan not mailed to the State Executive Committee 30 days prior to the convening of the State Convention must receive a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting at any State Convention.

**4.** Plan of Organization Committees shall have authority to correct any spelling or typographical errors in the Plan of Organization, as a housekeeping matter, that do not change the substance of the Plan.

## **B. APPLICABILITY**

### **1. Rules as to Counties and Districts**

The Precinct and County Committees and County Conventions, and the District Committees and 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. Counties may establish Executive Boards to transact the business of the Party between County Executive Committee Meetings.

## **C. 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 Chairman, State Vice-Chairman, 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**

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern all proceedings except when inconsistent with this State 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.

### **4. Proxy Voting**

No proxy voting shall be allowed at any meeting or convention held pursuant to this Plan

**D. EFFECTIVE DATE**

Adopted March 19, 2011.

Hope Almy  
Secretary, Carteret County Republican Party