

RUTHERFORD COUNTY NC REPUBLICAN PARTY
PLAN OF ORGANIZATION
Adopted March 17, 2018

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PREAMBLE

We, the Members of the Rutherford County Republican Party of North Carolina, 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 Rutherford County Republican Party of North Carolina.

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

All citizens of Rutherford County who are registered Republicans are Members of the Republican Party of North Carolina 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. Any person running for Party Office within the North Carolina Republican Party, at any level, shall be a resident of the jurisdiction in which he seeks office.

ARTICLE II PRECINCT ORGANIZATION

A. ANNUAL PRECINCT MEETINGS

1. Call for Meetings

In every year, the County Chairman shall call Precinct Meetings during the month of February or March, after giving no less than fifteen (15) days notice to each Precinct Chairman and by notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the County as provided for in Article VII.A.4. The Precinct Chairs shall be informed as to the number of registered Republicans entitled to cast votes at the county convention. 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 VII.A.4. Every Republican registered as of January 31 preceding the Meetings shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote, except that the January 31 requirement shall not apply to residents who have moved into the Precinct after January 31 and registered to vote prior to the date of the County Convention.

2. Election of Precinct Officers

At odd-year Precinct Meetings, at which a quorum is one (1) person, 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. If no Secretary is elected, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman will fulfill the duties assigned to the Secretary in this Plan of Organization. Officers of the Precinct Committee shall hold their offices for two (2) years or until their successors are chosen.

3. Election of Delegates

The annual Precinct Meetings shall elect one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate to the County Convention per precinct. They may also elect one (1) additional Delegate and Alternate for each one hundred (100) registered Republican voters, or major fraction thereof, in the precinct as of January 31 of that year.

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 created by the State Credentials Committee, and approved 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 2 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 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, after the county chairman receives a confidentiality and use agreement, signed by the candidate, stating the 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 five (5) days' notice of such Meeting in a newspaper of general circulation within the County, or by email or US Postal Service mail; 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.
- 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 sixty (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 County Executive Committee members present at a meeting called for the purpose of electing a new Precinct Chairman may vote in the election; there is no requirement for a voting County Executive Committee member to be registered in the precinct for which a new Precinct Chairman is being elected.

6. Meeting Cancellation Due to Circumstances Out of Party's Control

When circumstances beyond the control of the County Party prevent access to or use of the annual precinct facilities' (including but not limited to inclement weather conditions), it shall be the responsibility of the County Chairman to consult with the County Vice-Chairman, County Secretary and County Treasurer and make a decision on the cancellation and rescheduling of said Annual Precinct Meetings in the most timely manner possible. All efforts should be made by the County Chairman to notify local news outlets of said cancellation and rescheduling information. Notice of cancellation and rescheduling shall be given to Republican State Headquarters within twenty-four (24) hours or on the next business day

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.

3. Vacancies and Removals

- a. Vacancies due to death, resignation, discontinuance of residency within the Precinct, removal of any Officer or other Member of the Precinct Committee, or for any other reason, shall be filled by the remaining Members of the Precinct Committee.
- b. The procedure for removal of any Member or Officer is defined in Article VII.A.7. Such removal may be appealed to the County Executive Committee within twenty (20) days, and their decision shall be final.

**ARTICLE III
COUNTY ORGANIZATION**

A. ANNUAL CONVENTION

1. Call of 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 ten (10) days prior to the scheduled District Convention, following procedures given in Article VII.A.4. In odd numbered years, the Chairman shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of at least three (3) members in good standing of the Rutherford County Republican Party, whose duty shall be to take such actions as they deem necessary to present to the Convention a recommended slate of qualified candidates for the Executive Committee offices of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Secretary, and at least five (5) and up to twelve (12) At Large members the number of which will be determined by the Nominating Committee. 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 three (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 certified to the County Convention 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 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.

- b. 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 VII, 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 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 the State Plan of Organization, a current copy of which shall be on file at County Headquarters and at State Headquarters. If the County Convention fails to adopt a new 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. Failure of a County Republican Party to submit a County Plan to the NCGOP State Headquarters, within the time frame established by the NC State GOP Headquarters by certified United States mail, return receipt requested, 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, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer, and such other Officers as are otherwise provided for in the State or County Plan of Organization, who are registered Republican as of January 31 of that year and who shall serve for a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected.
- ii. In every odd-numbered year the County Convention shall elect a County Executive Committee of at least five (5) and up to twelve (12) voters the total number of which will be determined by the Nominating Committee, who are registered Republican as of January 31 of that year, in addition to the County Officers, who shall hold their places for a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected.
- iii. The County Convention shall elect one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate to Congressional District and State Conventions, plus one (1) additional Delegate and Alternate for every two hundred and fifty (250) Republicans, or major fraction thereof, registered in that county, as of January 31 of that year. Each County shall further elect one (1) 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 (1) Delegate and one (1) 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 Rutherford County ever becomes divided between two (2) or more Congressional Districts, consult the State Plan of Organization to determine how to prorate its Delegate vote among those Congressional Districts.

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 created by the State Credentials Committee and approved by the State Central Committee and in conformance with Article VII. Completed Credentials shall be in the hands of or in the email box of the Congressional District Secretary and the State Headquarter no later than 10 days following the date of the County Convention. The postmark date will be used to determine compliance for 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. Rutherford County Delegates and Alternates will be asked to pay this fee at the County Convention.

5. Meeting Cancellation Due to Circumstances out of Party's Control

When circumstances beyond the control of the County Party prevent access to or use of the County Convention facility (including but not limited to inclement weather conditions), it shall be the responsibility of the County Chairman to consult with the County Vice-Chairman, County Secretary and County Treasurer and make a decision on the cancellation and rescheduling of said County Convention in the most timely manner possible. All efforts should be made by the County Chairman to notify local news outlets of said cancellation and rescheduling information. Notice of cancellation and rescheduling shall be given to Republican State Headquarters within twenty-four (24) hours or on the next business day.

B. RUTHERFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

1. Membership

- a. County Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer.
- b. A minimum of five (5) and up to twelve (12) At-Large members elected at the odd-year County Convention.
- c. Standing Committee Chairs: Finance, Auditing, Public Relations, Minority Affairs, Precinct Organization, Special Events, and Campaign Chairman.
- d. Other Members: President of the Rutherford County Republican Club, and the immediate past County Chairman who is not the current Chairman.
- e. All Republican Elected Officials elected to partisan seats representing Rutherford County shall be ex officio members to the extent that they shall not affect the quorum.
- f. The Young Republicans' Advisor, who shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Rutherford County Republican Party Executive Committee.
- g. Sargent at Arms.

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 in accordance with Article VII D.2.d; 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 (3) 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. 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 ninety (90) days. At any time, the County Executive Committee may amend the County Plan of Organization upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote after providing written notice via either email or 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 Executive Director, Political Director, and District Chairman within thirty (30) days after their adoption, in order for the Plan and/or amendment to be considered valid.

3. Meetings

- a. The County Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year upon the call of the County Chairman, or the call of one-third (1/3) of the Members of the County Executive Committee, after giving 10 days' notice to all Members. One-fourth (1/4) of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- b. Any Committee member who misses three consecutive Executive Committee meetings will lose voting rights, which will be restored at the beginning of the second consecutive regularly scheduled meeting that the member attends. Any member without voting rights will not be counted in quorum tabulations, either as present or in the membership total. This attendance requirement also applies to ex officio members.
- c. Meetings will be open to all registered Republicans. At the discretion of the Committee, members of the media may be permitted to attend. The Committee may by majority vote of those attending elect to declare a meeting "off the record". In this case, members of the media who are attending as registered Republicans may remain. However, such members shall not be permitted to report on any actions or events of such meeting. Failure to abide by this rule will result in that particular member of the media being banned from attending future meetings.

4. Duties of Officers

- a. The Chairman of the County Executive Committee, with the advice and consent of the County Executive Committee, and shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Party within the County. The Chairman is authorized to expend County Party funds up to the amount of \$500 on a non-budgeted item without Executive Committee approval. The Chairman shall issue the call for Precinct Meetings, the County Convention, and Executive Committee meetings, and shall preside at all the Meetings of the County Executive Committee. The Chairman shall 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 Chairman shall also be a member of the District and State Executive Committees, and the Judicial, Senatorial, and Legislative District Executive Committees.

- i. The Finance Chairman shall have those duties and responsibilities set out in Article III.C.1.
 - ii. The Public Relations Chairman who shall prepare and distribute all general news releases and publications for the Party in Rutherford County, who shall arrange and generally prepare for all news conferences for the Party in Rutherford County, and perform other public relations functions, as required.
 - iii. The Precinct Organization Chairman who shall head a committee whose responsibility it shall be to create, train, and help maintain an aggressive, faithful, and well organized precinct organization in each precinct in the County.
 - iv. The Chairman of Minority Affairs who shall be responsible for encouraging the registration and active participation of minorities in the affairs of the Party in Rutherford County.
 - v. The Campaign Chairman who shall head a Committee of no less than five (5) nor more than eight (8) members (each County Commissioner's District to be represented by at least one [1] member) whose responsibility it shall be to recruit able and qualified candidates for public office for the Republican Party and who shall generally assist and advise the local nominees with their general election campaigns. The Campaign Chairman shall also be responsible for all campaign activities, including, but not limited to, obtaining poll workers, scheduling volunteers, and distributing and placing signs.
 - vi. The Auditing Chairman shall have those duties and responsibilities set out in Article III.C.2.
 - vii. A Young Republicans' Advisor who will be responsible for encouraging young people to register and get involved with the Republican Party of Rutherford County.
- 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. He shall also be a Member of the Congressional District and State Executive Committees.
 - 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 and Executive Board Meetings and shall fulfill all financial reporting and other financial obligations required under State and Federal election laws.
 - e. The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in performing his duties as required.

5. Vacancies and Removals

- a. Vacancies due to death, resignation, discontinuance of residency within the County, removal of any Officer or other Member of the County Executive Committee, or for any other reason, shall be filled by the remaining members of the County Executive Committee.
- b. The procedure for removal of any Member or Officer is defined in Article VII.A.7. Such removal may be appealed to the State Central Committee within twenty (20) days and their decision shall be final.

C. RUTHERFORD 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, the County Assistant Treasurer, and three (3) other 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 Audit Committee shall be appointed by the County Chair. The Audit 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 Audit Committee, in its discretion, deems appropriate.

**ARTICLE IV
NOT APPLICABLE TO COUNTY PLAN**

**ARTICLE V
NOT APPLICABLE TO COUNTY PLAN**

**ARTICLE VI
NOT APPLICABLE TO COUNTY PLAN**

**ARTICLE VII
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

A. CONVENTION PROCEDURES

1. Annual Conventions and Presidential Election Year Conventions

- a. The County Convention shall be called to order by the County Chairman, 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 credentials 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 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 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 (1) 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 (1) delegate, from that county, on the floor to vote the Delegates authorized.
- d. 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 Meetings and Conventions – NOT APPLICABLE TO COUNTY PLAN

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 fifteen (15) days prior to the Meeting or Convention. If a waiver is required for this requirement, see the NC GOP Plan of Organization. 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 Procedures

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.

7. Vacancies and Removals

a. Any Member of a Committee organized under this Plan may be removed either:

1. By a 2/3's vote of the respective Committee after being furnished with notice of the charges against him, signed by the lesser of (i) 50 Members or (i) one-third of the Members of the respective Committee. Any Republican against whom charges are brought shall be furnished with 2 weeks' notice of said charges and be given an opportunity to present a defense. Removal by a vote of the respective Committee shall be confined to gross inefficiency, Party disloyalty (as defined herein) or failure to comply with the County, District, or State Party Plans of Organization.

2. Automatically upon such Member's conviction (as defined below) of a felony after election to such Committee organized under this Plan without the need for any further action immediately effective upon such conviction, and the seat declared vacant. Each Member shall have the affirmative duty to inform the Chairman of such Committee in writing immediately upon his conviction of a felony; provided that the failure of a Member to so notify the Chairman in writing shall not delay, prevent or restrict the expulsion of such Member from such Committee in accordance with this Section.

a. For the purposes hereof, a "conviction" shall be defined as the conviction of or the entering of a guilty plea, an Alford plea, or a plea of no contest to a felony.

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.

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 "nonpartisan 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 of all Executive Committee meetings, and the Annual County Convention, of all official actions taken, and a copy shall be filed with the District Chairman and with Republican State Headquarters.

C. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

1. Records

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

2. Loans

No County Officer, staff, or member of the Party shall cause the Party to undertake a loan without the prior approval of the County Executive Committee.

3. Budgeted Expenses

No County Officer or County Staff member of the Party shall exceed the approved budgeted expenditures without approval from the County Executive Committee.

4. Leases

No County Officer or Staff member shall commit the County Party to a lease without prior approval of the County Executive Committee.

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 the entire 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. For nominations to the County Board of Elections, see the NC GOP Plan of Organization.

e. 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.

f. 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 two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Executive Committee. Charges of Party disloyalty may be brought by petition of fifty (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 (6) months and (5) years.

F. ELECTION OF PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES – NOT APPLICABLE TO COUNTY PLAN

G. REFRAIN FROM UTILIZING POWERS OF OFFICE IN REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

Each Officer and each member of the State Executive Committees shall refrain from utilizing the powers and dignity of his 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 (i.e., 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 (i.e., 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 VII. 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.

J. NOTICE

1. "Written notice" as used in this plan shall mean notice sent through the United States Postal Service (USPS) first class.
2. The date postmarked by the USPS or the date stamp on the email shall be conclusive as to the date notice was given.

Individuals entitled to receive written notice under this plan may elect to receive notification by other means in lieu of written notice, e.g., by email or telephone. This may be requested via written notice to the secretary of the entity required to give written notice; however, this waiver is revocable at any time by sending written notice of the revocation to the secretary.

K. Participation by Telephone or other Electronic Conference Call.

The Chairman of any committee organized under this Plan may permit any one (1) or more members of such committee to participate in a meeting of such committee by means of a telephone or other electronic conference call that allows all persons participating in the meeting to simultaneously hear each other during the meeting, and such participation in a meeting shall be deemed present in person at such meeting.

L. Action without Meeting.

Action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of any committee organized under this Plan may be taken without a meeting by unanimous written consent of all members of such committee. The action must be evidenced by one or more written consents signed by each member of such committee before or after such action, describing the action taken, and included in the minutes or filed with the committee's records. Action so taken is effective when the last member of such committee signs such consent, unless the consent specifies a different effective date. Such consent has the effect of a meeting vote and may be described as such in any document.

M. REPUBLICAN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

1. In even-numbered years, at the Republican Party's Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner, the Carolyn Smith Gardner Award for Republican Excellence shall be given to a worthy Republican. The recipient shall be chosen by a committee composed of the County Chairman, the County Vice-Chairman, and the Immediate Past Chairman of the Rutherford County Republican Party.
2. In odd-numbered years, at the Republican Party's Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner, an Outstanding Campaign Volunteer Award shall be given to a worthy Republican who gave outstanding support to the previous year's election campaign. The recipient shall be chosen by a committee

composed of the County Chairman, the County Vice-Chairman, and the Chairman of the Campaign Committee.

ARTICLE VIII
AMENDMENTS, APPLICABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS PLAN

A. AMENDMENTS TO PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

1. The Rutherford County Plan of Organization may be amended at the County Convention by a majority vote of those in attendance. It may also be amended by the County Executive Committee provided that the notice of the meeting advises the members of the proposed amendments, a quorum is present, and two-thirds (2/3) of those present vote in favor of the amendment.
2. 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 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 the State of North Carolina 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 these rules and the organizations herein established.

2. Rules as to Counties

The Precinct and County Committees and the 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.

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 sixty (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 the 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. No Proxy Voting

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

D. EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS PLAN

This Plan of Organization shall become effective, and shall repeal and supersede all other rules, except as specifically noted, immediately upon approval at the County Convention March 17, 2018. This, however, shall not invalidate any action taken under the previous rules prior to the date above. The adoption of this Plan shall not affect the term of those office holders at the time of the adoption of this plan.