



The Oconee County Republican Party

P.O. Box 25, Seneca, SC 29679



Oconee County Bylaws

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Bylaw 1: Name, Purpose, and Intent

- 1a. **Name:** The full name shall be "The Oconee County Republican Party". When appropriate, the name may be abbreviated to its initials "OCRP". The full name shall be used in conjunction with all official correspondence, announcements, and advertising issued by the OCRP and its officers.
- 1b. **Purpose:** The purpose of the OCRP shall include the following:
- a. **Good Government:** OCRP shall promote good government for Oconee County and the state of South Carolina by its actions and its example.
 - b. **Good Candidates:** OCRP shall recruit, and be open to, qualified citizens of good character who seek public office as Republicans. The OCRP shall support those who succeed in earning the nomination as a Republican candidate.
 - c. **Grassroots Participation:** OCRP shall promote open, grassroots participation of the Oconee County citizens in OCRP affairs and activities without discrimination of any kind.
- 1c. **Intent of County Bylaws:** These bylaws are not intended to replace or supersede State of SC Election Laws or the South Carolina Republican Party Rules. These bylaws are intended to help achieve long-term stability, continuity, and consistency in the OCRP by providing practical bylaws for its ongoing organization and conduct of its affairs.



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Bylaw 2: Adoption, Amendment, and Interpretation

- 2a. **Adoption:** Adoption of the bylaws shall be by an affirmative vote of the OCRP County Executive Committee (CXC) in a special meeting for that purpose; the bylaws shall become effective immediately upon adoption. A copy of the proposed bylaws shall be provided to each organized precinct at least 15 days prior to the scheduled meeting.
- 2b. **Amendment:** These bylaws may be amended only by a 2/3 vote of the total number of delegates at the county convention. A copy of the proposed amendments shall be provided to each organized precinct at least 15 days prior to the convention.
- 2c. **Interpretation:** The County Executive Committee shall be the final arbiter of all disputes under these bylaws. Should discrepancies or conflicts between these bylaws and State or SC Republican Party rules arise, or should situations arise that are not covered by the bylaws, it is the responsibility of the OCRP CXC to seek resolution.



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Bylaw 3: County Organization

- 3a. **County Organization:** The OCRP county organization shall consist of Officers, Directors, and Committees, as specified below.
- 3b. **OCRP Officers:** OCRP shall have five officers, three of whom are elected by delegates to the biennial county convention, and two of whom are elected by the CXC. As a group, the five officers shall share in the leadership, authority, and responsibility for OCRP affairs.
- a. **County Chair:** The County Chair shall be chosen by the biennial county convention delegates in a formal election, to serve until the next regular county convention. The County Chair shall be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and the official spokesperson, of the OCRP.
 - b. **County Vice Chair:** The County Vice Chair shall also be chosen by the biennial county convention delegates in a formal election, to serve until the next regular county convention. The County Vice Chair shall be the COO (Chief Operating Officer).
 - c. **State Executive Committeeman:** The State Executive Committeeman shall also be chosen by the biennial county convention, to serve until the next regular county convention. The State Executive Committeeman shall attend state executive committee meetings as the OCRP representative and report back as appropriate to the OCRP and the County Chair.
 - d. **County Secretary:** The County Secretary shall be elected by the CXC. The County Secretary shall be the CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) with responsibilities and authority as assigned by the County CXC. The term of service is at the sole discretion of the CXC.
 - e. **County Treasurer:** The County Treasurer shall be elected by the CXC. The County Treasurer shall be the CFO (Chief Financial Officer) with responsibilities and authority as assigned by the CXC. The term of service is at the sole discretion of the CXC.
- 3c. **Candidates:** Any member desiring to be a candidate for office of County Chairman, County Vice Chairman, or State Executive Committeeman shall convey their intent in writing to the OCRP Chair and Secretary no later than two weeks prior to the biennial convention. As long as the candidate meets the qualifications to be a convention delegate and has not violated State Bylaw 15 or 16, their name shall be placed in nomination at the convention.



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Bylaw 3: County Organization (continued)

3d. **OCRП Directors:** The OCRП shall have one District Director for each county council district. He/she shall each be elected by the CXC, and shall work with the County Vice Chair (COO) to ensure the organization of all the precincts within an assigned county council district and the participation of those precincts in OCRП affairs. The term of service is at the sole discretion of the CXC.

- a. **OCRП Committees:** OCRП shall have a standing Steering Committee, as well as such other committees as are needed to meet OCRП objectives. The OCRП Steering Committee shall consist of its elected officers and directors and shall be chaired by the County Chair. The County Chair shall schedule regular monthly meetings of the steering committee for the purpose of discussing and deciding on OCRП policies, plans, and activities. Regular meetings may be cancelled by the County Chair if appropriate. See Bylaw 8b, 9b, and 9d for additional responsibilities of the Steering Committee.



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Bylaw 4: County Executive Committee (CXC)

- 4a. **CXC Definition, Membership, and Voting:** The CXC is defined by state rules and is designed to ensure that each precinct in the county has the opportunity to organize and be represented in its party or organization at the county level. The County Committeeman, elected by each organized precinct, is a member of the CXC. County Committeemen are the authorized voters on any CXC business. In the absence of the Precinct County Committeeman at a CXC meeting a duly authorized proxy (Bylaw 4d) may vote on CXC business in the place of the precinct County Committeeman. In absence of both the County Committeeman and a duly authorized proxy, the precinct president may vote on CXC business in the place of the precinct County Committeeman. Precinct presidents and County Officers are recognized as non voting members of the County Executive Committee.
- 4b. **Meetings and Notice:** OCRP County Executive Meetings shall be called by the County Chair at least twice per year for the specific purpose of presenting OCRP status and plans, once in the first quarter and again in the third quarter. The County Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairman, any three Committeemen, or by ten percent of the Committee's membership, whichever is greater, at such time and place as he or they shall appoint, but no meeting shall be held without each member of the Committee having been given at least twenty-four (24) hours written or electronic notice thereof. The meetings shall be chaired by the County Chair or designee.
- 4c. **Quorum and Voting:** A meeting quorum for voting on CXC business shall be the physical presence of the County Committeemen, proxy (Bylaw 4d), or precinct president (Bylaw 4a) representing at least one-third of the organized precincts, with a simple majority vote of the quorum required for passage of any item to be voted on unless otherwise noted in these Bylaws.
- 4d. **Proxy:** A proxy for any precinct County Committeeman must submit a written proxy authorization, dated and signed by the County Committeeman, in order to vote for the precinct on official CXC business in accordance with Rule 8 of the SC State Rules.



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Bylaw 5: Organization Vacancies, Resignations, and Removals

5a. **Vacancy:** A vacancy in the OCRP elected or appointed office at the county or precinct level shall automatically occur when:

- a. The office holder is no longer a resident of the jurisdiction for the office.
- b. The office holder is convicted of a criminal offense.
- c. The office holder becomes an officer or candidate for another political party.
- d. The office holder resigns from office.

5b. **Resignation:** Any elected or appointed official at the county or precinct level who wishes to resign must do so in writing and must submit it to the County Chair and County Secretary. The resignation will take effect at the next scheduled CXC meeting. The acceptance of a resignation, including assumed resignations (see Bylaw 5c), shall be recorded in the minutes of the OCRP CXC meeting in which the action is taken.

5c. **Assumed Resignation:** The OCRP CXC, after reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances, may decide by a two-thirds (2/3) vote it is appropriate to assume the resignation of an OCRP county or precinct office holder for reasons such as:

- a. The office holder is unwilling or unable to perform the duties of the office.
- b. The office holder has publicly endorsed or supported the opponent of a Republican in the general election.
- c. Any violation of Rule 15 or 16 in the Rules of the South Carolina Republican Party.

5d. **Removal from Office:** The CXC may remove an officer in the following manner:

- a. The CXC may remove any officer elected by the CXC at any time if they are not satisfied with their performance.
- b. Officers elected at the biennial convention may be removed if by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the CXC, it is determined that they are in violation of State Rule 15 or 16.

5e. **Disciplinary Action:** Any official removed from office as defined in bylaws 5c or 5d, will be barred from holding any office in the OCRP for the subsequent two reorganization cycles.

5f. **Filling County Vacancies:** Vacancies shall be filled by holding a new election in a special CXC meeting called for that purpose.



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Bylaw 5: Organization Vacancies, Resignations,
and Removals (continued)

5g. **Filling Precinct Vacancies:** Each precinct is responsible for filling its own vacancies. In the event a precinct fails to fill the vacancy in the offices of President or Executive Committeeman within two months of that vacancy, the precinct will be declared unorganized.



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Bylaw 6: District and State Convention Delegates

- 6a. **Number of Delegates and Alternates:** The number of OCRP delegates and alternates authorized for District and State conventions is assigned by the SC Republican Party prior to the biennial county convention. The OCRP county convention has the option of electing half-vote delegates and alternates to give more Republicans the opportunity to participate in the conventions. A vote by county convention delegates shall decide whether to use that option.
- 6b. **Precinct Nominees:** In order to facilitate county wide participation in the conventions, nominations will be accepted from every organized precinct. Each precinct will be authorized to nominate one or more delegates based on their proportion of the number of delegates assigned to the SC Republican Party to Oconee County as determined by the OCRP Secretary. Precinct nominations will be made at the precinct reorganization meetings preceding the county convention.
- 6c. **Ballot:** All nominees shall appear on a single county convention ballot, by precinct in last name alphabetical sequence, showing any party or public offices currently being held by the nominee.
- 6d. **Voting:** The county convention delegates will be instructed to vote for a maximum number of individuals needed to elect the remaining number of authorized delegates and alternates (or half-vote delegates and alternates) to the District and State conventions. The maximum number of votes to be cast on each ballot (full or half vote) will be determined by the County Executive Committee prior to the convention. The three County Officers elected at the biennial convention shall be automatic delegates to the District and State Conventions. The remaining delegate and alternate positions will be filled, in order, based on the total number of votes each nominee receives. The County Chair, prior to the convention, will appoint a committee to tally the votes.



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Bylaw 7: Candidate Support and Services

- 7a. **Purpose:** The purpose of this bylaw is to define the minimum support and services OCRP will provide for any Republican candidate in a contested primary and for any Republican nominee in a general election.
- 7b. **Supplied Documents:** OCRP will provide, at the time of filing, a copy of these bylaws at no cost to each candidate who files as a Republican. OCRP will also supply a copy of the SC State Republican Party Platform and Republican Creed to each candidate who files as a Republican.
- 7c. **Voter Records:** OCRP shall keep a computer file of Oconee registered voters as supplied by the SC Republican Party. A copy of the record layout and the applicable records for a given office will be provided at no cost to any candidate who files as a Republican, at the candidate's request, via email or on commonly used removable digital media supplied by the candidate. The records for each precinct shall be given to all precinct presidents.
- 7d. **Advertising:** OCRP will advertise Republican nominees, as a group, before a general election in whatever way it shall determine is appropriate and can afford. The objective is to convey a positive image of the Republican Party, the slate of Republican candidates, and the individual Republican nominees.
- 7e. **Candidate Support:** OCRP County Officers and Directors will not publicly support candidates during contested primary elections, other than as individuals without reference to their position in the OCRP. The OCRP will support all Republican candidates during a general election in accordance with State Rule 16.



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Bylaw 8: Membership

- 8a. **Purpose:** There are always many Republicans who are willing to support the OCRP financially, including some who are not interested in any direct role in the OCRP organization. The purpose of the OCRP membership program is to provide a way of obtaining regular financial support from those who are willing to help the OCRP financially through a membership program that is based on the payment of dues. OCRP shall not sell or share member information with any organization or third party without express consent by the member.
- 8b. **Membership Dues:** Membership categories and the dues for each category shall be set by the OCRP Steering Committee. Dues shall include membership for the dues' billing calendar year.
- 8c. **Membership is Voluntary:** No person shall be forced or required to become a dues paying OCRP member. However, any member or group of the OCRP with appointment authority should consider only those who are dues paying members when making appointments and nominations.



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Bylaw 9: Financial Planning, Controls, and Reporting

- 9a. **Purpose:** The purpose of this bylaw is to help ensure that OCRP finances are adequately planned, controlled, and reported.
- 9b. **Operating Plan:** The OCRP Steering Committee shall establish an operating plan in December for the following year. The operating plan shall be the basis for the budget.
- 9c. **Budget:** The Treasurer shall prepare a proposed budget, covering estimated revenues and expenditures to achieve the operating plan, and submit it to the OCRP CXC at the first meeting of the calendar year for formal adoption. The operating plan and the budget shall be revised during the year if circumstances warrant.
- 9d. **Controls:** the OCRP CXC shall establish appropriate policies regarding the authority to make purchases or place orders that commit OCRP funds and for the proper handling of receipts, disbursements, and bank accounts by the Steering Committee.
- 9e. **Reports:** The Treasurer shall provide the CXC with a summary report of actual results compared to the budget, at least quarterly, and shall recommend budget revision to the CXC whenever appropriate.
- 9f. **Financial Review:** A financial review shall be conducted annually for the calendar year. The review results of the previous year shall be reported to the CXC at the first meeting of the calendar year, in conjunction with the proposed budget. The CXC will appoint a person or persons to conduct the review.